THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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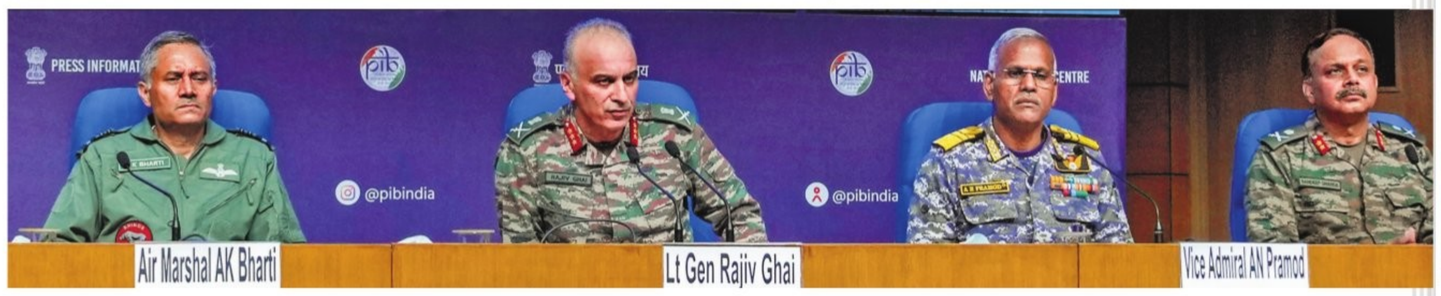
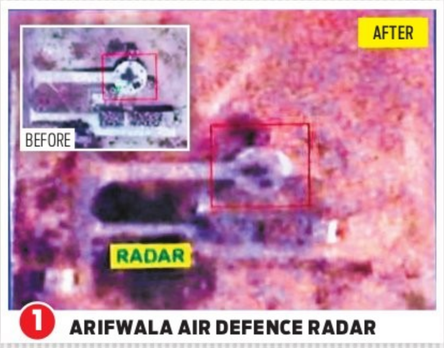


Director General of Military Operations Lt General Rajiv Ghai (2nd from left) with Air Marshal A K Bharti, Vice Admiral A N Pramod, and Major General S S Sharda | PTI



1 ARIFWALA AIR DEFENCE RADAR

2 CHAKLALA AIRFIELD

3 SARGODHA AIRFIELD (WHERE F16 JETS WERE PARKED)

MAJOR HITS

- Air Marshal AK Bharti, during a joint press briefing with defence officials on Sunday, showed detailed video of the effects of Indian Air Force operations during its air raids at Arifwala air defence radar in Pakistan, the Chaklala airfield and Sargodha
- Sargodha is designated as a "Major Operational Base" and reportedly houses Pakistan's F-16s
- Other targets in Pakistan hit by IAF were Murid, PAF base at Rafiqui and units at Lahore and Gujranwala

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INDIA SENDING TEAM TO U.N. AGAINST PAK

NEW DELHI: With the United Nations Security Council's 1267 committee set to meet next week, India will send a team with evidence highlighting Pakistan's complicity in terrorism and TRF's role in Pahalgam attack | P9

CONG SEEKS SPECIAL PARLIAMENT SESSION

NEW DELHI: Leaders of the opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabhahave written to PM for a special session of Parliament to discuss Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor

RAJNATH INAUGURATES NEW BRAHMOS UNIT

LUCKNOW: BrahMos is not just a weapon but a "message" of India's military strength, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday at the inauguration of the largest integration and testing facility of the missile system here | P6

India's iron fist crushed Pak's high hopes: Forces

100 terrorists, including high-value targets, killed in May 7 strikes; Pak Army lost 35-40 personnel; India downed Pak jets

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

OPERATION SINDOOR
DAY 5

INDIAN forces inflicted heavy losses to the Pakistan side via Operation Sindoor by destroying key military installations and downing fighter jets, apart from razing down nine identified terrorist camps, Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said on Sunday.

Giving details of Operation Sindoor at a detailed media briefing in New Delhi on Sunday evening, attended by senior military officials of the Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy, the DGMO said that India achieved its desired objectives and Pakistan will have to pay a very heavy price if it resorts to any misadventure.

Lt Gen Ghai said over 100 terrorists, including high-value targets such as Yusuf Azhar, Abdul Malik Rauf and Mudasir Ahmed, who were involved in the hijacking of IC 814 and the Pulwama blast, were eliminated during Operation Sindoor. He said all Indian pilots are safe while Pakistan lost 35-40 Pakistani military personnel in the three-day combat.

The military officials, however, did not comment on the losses on the Indian side, saying it would give an advantage to the adversary. "We are in a combat scenario and losses are a part of combat. The question to be asked is have we achieved our objectives of decimating the terrorist camps? The answer is a thumping yes. I would not like to comment on the numbers, which platforms did we lose? We are still in a combat situation. If I comment, it will be advantageous (to the Pak side). All our pilots are back home," said Air Marshal A K Bharti.

In response to a question, Air Marshal A K Bharti said India "definitely" downed a few Pakistani planes but refused to confirm the numbers. "Their planes were prevented from coming inside our border. So we do not have the wreckage with us but definitely we have downed a few planes," he said.

The officials stressed that Indian forces were extra careful not to inflict any casualties on civilians, and they stuck to this policy even though it meant some tactical disadvantage to the Indian side.

Vice Admiral AN Pramod, DGNO said, "Along with kinetic actions by the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, the overwhelming operational edge of Indian Navy at sea contributed towards Pakistan's urgent request for a ceasefire."

India cautions Pak against misadventure

JAYANTH JACOB & MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

INDIA has drawn a red line in its security posture with Pakistan: any provocation will trigger a sharper, more forceful response. "If they fire, we fire"—that's the new normal, sources said, following the cross-border strikes under Operation Sindoor, which they emphasised is still on.

"Operation Sindoor has not concluded, there is a new normal in India's response to cross-border terrorism," said sources familiar with the matter. Launched after the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians, the operation targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to sources, gave the armed forces a clear directive: "Wahan se goli chalegi, toh yahan se golen chalenge" (If bullets come from there, artillery shells will be fired from here).

Sources said India is determined to raise the cost of cross-border terrorism, making it clear that Pakistan cannot selectively seek cooperation while continuing to shelter and support terror networks.

India rejects Trump offer to mediate in Kashmir

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA has rejected US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate on the Kashmir issue, making it clear that the only issue on the table is Pakistan vacating the territory it illegally occupies in PoK.

Government sources made it unequivocally clear that India sees no role for external intervention in the matter. "We have a very clear position on Kashmir, there is only one matter left- the return of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). There is nothing else to talk. If they talk about handing over terrorists, we can talk. We don't want anyone to mediate. We don't need anyone to mediate." The Indian position is that the whole of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the US President's mediation offer and thanked Trump for his willingness to step in.

Trump, commenting on the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan following four days of heightened military tension over the Pahalgam terror attack, praised the leadership of both countries.

Uneasy calm in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab

FAYAZ WANI AND HARPREET BAJWA @ Srinagar / Chandigarh

CAUTIOUS optimism prevailed among residents of the border states of Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab as the ceasefire appeared to take effect on Sunday, a day after Pak forces breached their commitment.

In Jammu and Kashmir, residents of Uri and other border areas heaved a sigh of relief with no fresh reports of attack from across the border, while authorities in Punjab advised residents to continue voluntary blackout and be at home by 8 pm as a measure of caution.

In stark contrast to the past few days, no sirens or explosions were heard in J&K on Sunday. However, police officials advised residents who had moved to safer places not to return until the unexploded shells are cleared.

On Sunday, the markets in Srinagar were abuzz with activity as shoppers thronged to buy essential goods.

"Yesterday was very scary as loud explosions could be heard. Soon, there was a blackout. It was tough to convince my children that things will become normal," said Mushtaq Ahmed, a resident of Srinagar.

In Uri, where at least 100 houses were damaged amid heavy shelling by Pakistan, life was slowly returning to normal. "There has been no shelling since yesterday morning. This is a big relief. We pray that there is permanent ceasefire," said a Uri resident Abdul Qayoom Ganai.

In Punjab, educational institutions in five border districts will remain closed on Monday as a matter of precatuion.

Kashmiris check out clothes and backpacks at a market in Srinagar on Sunday | PTI

2 HELD FOR ESPIONAGE

Two persons, including a woman, were arrested in Punjab for their involvement in leaking sensitive cues to a Pakistan-handler on the Army's move-ments | P10

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400 NOTICES SERVED

GDKGA approval must for using groundwater

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE water table has declined drastically because of over exploitation of groundwater sources in the state.

To put checks and balances in place, the Groundwater Directorate and Karnataka Groundwater Authority (GDKGA) has again sent a reminder to all departments in the state, stating that the authority's permission is mandatory for 'No Objection Certificate' or 'Occupancy Certificate' for using groundwater for construction activities.

The authority's reminder comes with an increasing number of buildings and other establishments using groundwater, but many not seeking its approval. According to GDKGA data, from 2019 (when the authority was formed) till date, 205 NOCs have been issued to industries and residential and commercial establishments in Bengaluru alone. Around 400 notices have been served on establishments for not seeking the authority's permission for drawing groundwater. The permission for 942 borewells has been issued during the financial year 2024-25.

People are not taking approval from the authority because they are not aware of the rules, said Ambika T, Deputy Director, Bengaluru Urban, GDKGA. While house owners have to approach Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for permission for drilling borewells, large establishments have to seek approval from the authority.

Another official said, "Not even 20% of projects in the city have our approval. This is because BWSSB gives clearances online without involving us." P2

K'taka Exp passenger makes hoax bomb call, train searched at Wadi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalaburagi

A passenger travelling on Karnataka Express train triggered panic after making a hoax bomb threat call, which led to the train being halted and searched at the Wadi Railway Station for several hours in Kalaburagi district early Sunday morning. The accused, Deep Singh (33), from UP, was arrested by the Wadi Railway Station police and has been remanded in judicial custody at Chittapur jail, officials confirmed.

The police said the railway control room received a call around 1 am warning of a possible bomb on the Karnataka Express travelling from Delhi to Bengaluru. The train was stopped at Wadi station, and a thorough search was conducted with the help of a bomb squad and sniffer dogs. Over 40 personnel from the Railway Protection Force , local police and the bomb disposal team searched the train from 1.30 am till 4.30 am.

Thousands of passengers were made to get down and all the 22 coaches were searched. With no explosives found, the call was confirmed as a hoax. The investigation revealed that Deep Singh, who was heading to Guntakal, made the call using his father's phone.

He later tried to remain unnoticed by switching the phone to flight mode. But he was traced through the Truecaller app, which also provided a photo of the caller.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

02 BENGALURU | MONDAY 12.05.2025 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 12.05.2025 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Uttarayana • Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishaka • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Purnima 8.44 pm • Nakshatra: Visaka (Whole Day) • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 34°C
FORECAST: Increasing cloudiness
Sunrise 05.56 am | Sunset 06.37 pm | Moonrise 06.25 pm | Moonset 05.52 am

Varthur residents slam BBMP's SWD project

Allege the Palike covered the drain with concrete for vehicle movement, diverted traffic from CDP Road also

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THE Varthur residents, who are up in arms against the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for planning a flyover in the locality, have now alleged that BBMP officials have cut the Storm Water Drain (SWD) network and covered the drain with concrete for vehicle movement.

They further alleged that the officials have also diverted the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) Road from Thubarahalli to Kundlahalli to help builders for easy access to their properties, which has led to heavy traffic pressure on Varthur Main Road.

Advocate Raveesh shows the encroached SWD which is cut and concreted at Thubarahalli near Vibghyor School

The major canal, which links Varthur Lake and Bellanduru Amanikere Lake and runs along survey numbers 61 and 59, has been allegedly cut to make a road to connect Varthur. "The officials have covered the major drain by placing concrete slabs. The drain, which is about 150 metres long near Vibgyor School, has been cut. It appears that builders, to facilitate better connectivity to their apartments, have got this violation executed through SWD Officials," alleged Raveesh JK, an advocate and a resident of Varthur.

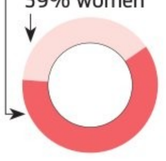
The secretary of the Varthur Nagarikara Hitha Rakshana Vedika, Jagadish Reddy, alleged that certain political leaders and their associates own properties along the proposed CDP Road alignment from Balagere T Junction to Kundalahalli Junction. He stated that rather than acquiring these properties for public infrastructure, the authorities have instead encroached upon the stormwater canal, constructed a box drain in violation of environmental norms. He further pointed out that unsuspecting homebuyers are being drawn into an unresolved civic and legal mess.

Residents of Varthur have expressed concern that, despite being fully aware that the canal-side road at Balagere T Junction and Thubarahalli becomes impassable during heavy rains and floods, some developers are aggressively pushing for a Rs 480 crore flyover project. The proposed flyover spans 1.92 kilometres, extending from the Varthur Main Road sluice gate to Vinayaka Theatre.

"Out of the total budget, Rs 190 crore is designated for the flyover construction, while the remaining amount is intended for land acquisition and utility shifting. More than 8,000 local residents are urging the government to reconsider this project. They strongly advocate for widening the existing road and completing the CDP Road through Munnekolala and Thubarahalli villages, which would provide a far more effective and sustainable solution to the area's traffic issues," a resident asserted.

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the respondents, 61% were men and 39% women



In terms of location, 45% were from Tier-1 cities, 28% from Tier-2 and 27% from Tier 3 and 4 districts

PARENTS STRUGGLE AS SCHOOLS HIKE FEES BEYOND 10%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AS private schools in the city gear up for the 2025-26 academic session, a survey has revealed that a significant number of parents are facing sharp fee hikes, adding to the financial burden on households.

According to the survey conducted by LocalCircles, 48% of parents in Bengaluru reported an increase in school fees by 10% or more, with 8% stating that the hike exceeds 30%. Meanwhile, 46% of respondents said their schools have not yet announced the revised fees, leaving many in uncertainty.

The findings, based on responses from 2,711 parents in the city, paint a worrying picture for families already coping with rising living costs and education-related expenses. While 21% said the hike was between 20% and 30%, about 19% saw a 10-20% increase, and a small fraction reported a 5-10% rise. Only 2% said there had been no change in the fee, while no one reported hikes of less than 5%.

The data from Bengaluru is part of a larger national picture, where over 18,000 parents from 301 districts participated. Nationally, 81% of parents with children in private schools reported that fees had gone up by more than 10% compared to last year. The survey highlighted that in cities like New Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, rising school fees have sparked widespread concern and even street protests in some areas. In Delhi's DPS Dwarka, for instance, parents have repeatedly protested fee hikes that have pushed annual fees to Rs 1.4 lakh, with tuition fee hikes of 8-20% every year since 2020. Despite intervention by authorities, many schools continue to increase fees under various heads.

Even in Karnataka, the Department of School Education responded to parental concerns by issuing a circular requiring all schools to publish detailed fee structures and reservation policies. Schools have also been instructed to set up grievance redressal mechanisms, while education officers have been directed to act on complaints without delay.

With 44% of parents nationally stating that fees have increased by 50-80% or more over the past three years, many families are turning to loans to manage the rising cost of education. For those with children in high schools, the added pressure of coaching and competitive exam preparation is proving to be financially unsustainable, the survey revealed. The parents urged the central and state governments to step in to regulate school fee hikes and ensure that any caps are effectively implemented at the ground level.

WASTE NOT...

Make SJ Park rainwater harvesting zone: Traders

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AS water from KG Road gushes down and floods SJP Road during every spell of rain, residents and traders in the area are proposing to civic authorities to transform the unused Silver Jubilee Park (SJ Park) into a 'rainwater harvesting zone'. The locked BBMP park, which has become a dumping ground and hotspot for illegal activities, could instead be utilised to harvest rainwater, they say.

With the locality struggling for clean water and storm water going waste, locals believe building percolation chambers in the park can help recharge the water table and bring relief, as currently both rainwater and open space are being wasted.

Residents and shopkeepers told *TNIE* the area has long struggled with water shortage, and the ongoing white-topping work on SJP Road has only made the situation worse, often disrupting water supply. Now, with the rainy season around the corner, frequent downpours lead to rainwater from nearby KG Road to flow into SJP Road, flooding the road and overwhelming the drainage system. With the BBMP park in the area currently not being utilised by the public, locals feel that transforming it into a green, sustainable space could help address both the local water crisis and flood situation.

Rahul Goyal, a shopkeeper in the area, said space is being wasted both in terms of land and water. "Rainwater from KG Road flows down to SJP Road, but instead of going waste in drains, it could be better utilised to recharge the water table. The civic authorities can build percolation chambers in the park, capturing runoff rainwater and allowing it to filter into the ground," he said.

Shopkeepers said the stretch sees high footfall because of the number of shops here, and even a short spell of rain is enough to flood the road. "Water from KG Road clogs the drains and slows down traffic. It inconveniences the public, affects business. If water could be diverted properly, it would ease pressure during the monsoon," shop owner Manoj Sindwani said.

A few businessmen also suggested a dual-purpose solution. "A section of the park can be converted into a parking bay. A well-marked, paved surface with organised slots for two-wheelers would ease parking chaos on this stretch. The rest of the park can be used for rainwater harvesting, which the area needs," Mohammed Saif, owner of an automobile shop, suggested.

Civic work in progress near the locked KG Road BBMP Park, Bengaluru | EXPRESS

B'luru water table going down fast, says official

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"A subcommittee for clearing all projects (apart from individual homes and water for domestic consumption) has been set up. We are also part of it along with BBMP and other agencies. But project details are not shared with us. Not many are aware of the authority," the official said.

The official said the authority has issued two notices to defaulters for not taking permission from it. No third notice has been served as the government is not keen on disconnecting power and water supply of errant establishments, as they fall under the essential category.

Authority Director Rajendra said that information related to Bengaluru is available and that of the state is being collated. "We have been writing to all authorities to involve us in giving clearances and sharing information. This is important as the water table is going down fast with recharge not happening at the same pace," he added.

Reacting to this, BWSSB Engineer-in-Chief Suresh B said their board is responsible for individual houses, while other categories like non-domestic, apartment, commercial, industrial etc., are with GDKGA. There is an online system and a subcommittee has been set up for this.

R Babu, a retired official of the Mines and Geology Department, who is now a consultant with Central Ground Water Board, said proper coordination with agencies concerned is needed to overcome the water crisis.

BMSCE holds its annual techno-cultural fest

Bengaluru: BMS College of Engineering (BMSCE) held its annual techno-cultural festival, Utsav Ananta 2025. The event was graced by actors Daali Dhananjaya, Sanjana Anand, and singer Ananya Bhat, as chief guests, while Dr B S Ragini Narayan and Aviram Sharma were the guests of honour. The three-day event held from May 9-11 saw participation from over 200 colleges and featured a mix of events spanning music, dance, theatre, literature, and technology. The event was presided over by the principal, the vice principal (admin) and the vice principal (academic). **ENS**

KSRTC wins 3 Fortuna Global Excellency awards

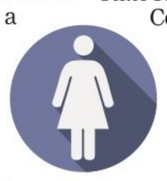
Bengaluru: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has won three Fortuna Global Excellency Awards 2025 (India edition), that held in Mumbai on Saturday, for the implementation of unique initiatives in public transport. The awards were given under the categories of Business Leader of the Year, Visionary Leadership of the Year (government service) and Brand Strategy Leader of the Year. Jagadeesh, divisional controller, Chikmagalur division, and Sreenath, divisional controller, Kolar division, received the awards on behalf of KSRTC. **ENS**

Gender pay gap disempowers women: Activists

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

THE latest findings by TeamLease bring to light a stark 16.4% gender pay gap in Global Capability Centres (GCCs). This once again highlights the age-old yet infuriating gender disparities in the private sector. Despite the Equal Remuneration Act, which mandates equal pay for equal work and prohibits discrimination based on gender, women still find it difficult.

The founder and director of Global Concerns India Brinda Adige said, "This is about the collective disempowerment of women, undermining our economic agency and perpetuating a cycle of discrimination and inequality." Echoing the same sentiment, K S Vimala, a women's rights activist with the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), said, "In private sector, profit and deadlines are prioritised over social justice. In a society where women are expected to shoulder most family responsibilities, they are often not allowed to take on higher roles, which is a major barrier," she says.



"It is also happening at the level of executives. These industries have to be brought under regulation," said Maitreyi K, state secretary, All India Central Council of Trade Unions.

She argued that legal frameworks alone won't suffice, and the government needs to step in to make a change. "It's the implementation that remains weak," she stressed. "Government should identify them and ensure they comply with equal pay laws. Strict action must be taken if it is not followed," she added.

Tara Krishnaswamy, policy consultant, stresses the need for transparency and monitoring. "Companies must be held accountable. Just like there are mandates for women on boards, we need mandates for overall representation. More importantly, since gender parity laws exist, companies should be required to publish their pay scales and undergo regular audits," she said.

Cynthia Stephen, an independent gender and social policy researcher, opined, "Even though the state has a progressive stance on women's economic, educational and political empowerment, the reason lies in entrenched misogyny."

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

12th May : As you know, I'm excited by the prospect of water on the Moon, because that will make it easier for us to have holidays there! The latest news is that we have found water locked inside Moon rocks. Now, if we can ever unlock these resources, we could really have a promising situation. I am looking forward to gazing up and seeing people on the Moon!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're moving towards passionate, flexible and romantic influences as the planets head towards the next big crunch. When it happens it will be global as much as personal, so don't feel singled out for harsh treatment. At least you'll finally begin to understand what is what and who is who.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The week gets under way with planets which are almost perfect but also slightly flawed. Travel stars are now beginning to focus on long-distance adventures rather than short-range excursions. You may be attracted to the people and places from your past.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The week will be cut into two by the movement of Mercury, your ruling planet, into a new and down-to-earth region. Whatever your commitments or responsibilities at the beginning of the week, by the weekend you'll be rushed off your feet. You might even be breaking free from a comfortable rut.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You appear to have come to the conclusion that a move or reorganisation of your domestic life should take place. You must also be aware that this is no time for complacency. The best advice may come from people who haven't known you for long - and can therefore be impartial.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You may either conform or go your own merry way. You see, although some planets are advising you to keep your head down, Mercury is shortly to alter its position and is due to boost your morale no end. It will do this partly by encouraging you to make up your own mind for a change.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Only after another month has passed will you be clear about the future. Even then you may be so deluged with social engagements or routine commitments that you may not be sure where to turn. At work, you're in a strong position but must use your skills wisely.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You are not one to bow the knee, but there may be times this week when it is best to defer to authority. On the other hand, you are yourself due a little respect for your undoubted skills and achievements. You may just receive it early next week, with another bout, a couple of weeks later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The tide of fortune is turning in your favour. The stars have already set up a number of chances. Your task this week is to move very rapidly to commit others to whatever promises they have made. The only proposals which work will be those which have a proper practical basis.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Remember that the long-term issue is still one of your security, financial and emotional. You are now approaching the final resolution of a major question, one that has bugged you for far too long. Just a word of advice - let partners take first place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
These are intense and highly significant times for all your most important emotional ties. While some of you are still uncertain, others are recognising that a period of stability and consolidation is essential. What else can we expect at a time of change?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may be confused and perplexed after recent emotional upsets, but I'd advise you to play safe and not to use current uncertainty to settle any old scores. Pay more attention to relations' needs and desires. Understand these and you're halfway home.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
There are a number of questions to be answered, but it is unlikely that the answers will be clear just yet. But that probably won't bother you, for you tend to operate intuitively and telepathically. Of course, you still have to make sure that other people get your drift.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

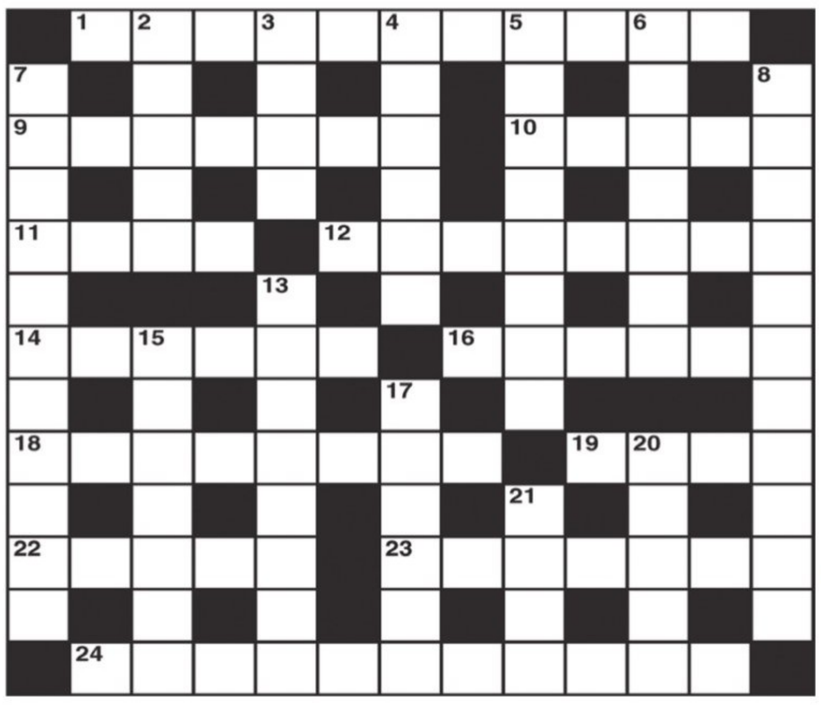
7					4	2		
	8		7	1	9	4		5
1		4	2			7	3	
	2	3				9		
			3		6			
		6				1	7	
	3	1			5	8		7
6		9	1	8	7		5	
		8	4					1

9	8	6	5	1	2	3	4	7
2	1	4	9	3	7	5	6	8
3	7	5	8	6	4	9	1	2
1	5	9	3	4	8	2	7	6
7	6	8	2	5	9	1	3	4
4	3	2	1	7	6	8	9	5
6	9	3	4	8	5	7	2	1
8	4	1	7	2	3	6	5	9
5	2	7	6	9	1	4	8	3

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Description of an eternity ring? (5-6)
9 Hawaiian offering certainly enjoyed by idle rich (7)
10 Spread out in America (5)
11 Does have as partner such a speculator (4)
12 They show how to make a mixture of rum and ale (8)
14 Left in the borders and edges (6)
16 Code letter one has to eat perhaps (6)
18 Many too old for reporter's work (8)
19 A major land mass, though it could be minor (4)
22 A record that's not way out? (5)
23 Surprise opening by the French (7)
24 Bookstand wrecked by angered kids (7,4)

DOWN
2 Tea break about six - good show! (5)
3 Birds displayed in most nature museums (4)
4 Before this time in the past (6)
5 Order right doormat for the prison (8)
6 No more - it's enough to perplex (7)
7 It may be of untold value (5,6)
8 A supporter who arouses enthusiasm (11)
13 Bread yet to be baked and given away (8)
15 Very keen supporter voted out on two points (7)
17 Urges preparation for breakfast? (4,2)
20 Ground for development? (5)
21 Property to come down (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Bumper, 4 Graphics, 9 Rarely, 10 Falsetto, 12 Nuts, 13 Sedan, 14 Stet, 17 Short circuit, 20 Posted abroad, 23 Ache, 24 Faint, 25 Skye, 28 Appendix, 29 Curate, 30 Indigent, 31 Zealot.

Down: 1 Baroness, 2 Marathon, 3 Eels, 5 Road accident, 6 Pass, 7 In toto, 8 Sports, 11 Registration, 15 Stoop, 16 Limbo, 18 Cocktail, 19 Adherent, 21 Salami, 22 Shaped, 26 Snug, 27 Rune.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUHBC

VCILI

MKIYPS

GSNIRP

Play "Free Bird"!
No! My show, my playlist. I'm going to play some U2 next!
THE MUSICIAN'S FAVORITE PART OF BEING A SOLO GUITARIST WAS THAT HE GOT TO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: OPERA HUMOR CLERGY DOLLAR
Answer: The new bartender got to know customers by establishing a — GOOD "RE-POUR"

A woman and her three children sustained injuries after a gas cylinder exploded at their house in Kariyapalli Village under Chinthamani Rural police limits on Sunday. A preliminary investigation indicated that a gas leak caused the explosion. According to a source, the incident occurred when Lakshmidevamma (32) attempted to light the stove. The blast also caused damage to the asbestos sheet roof of their house

Daytime burglaries surge despite overall decline in cases

Temple robberies remain a daily occurrence

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

THERE has been a slight decline in burglary cases in the state, but concerns persist due to a rise in daytime burglaries over the past two years. Meanwhile, over the last two years, at least one temple burglary has been reported daily in the state.

According to the data, 1,128 daytime burglary cases were registered in 2024, compared to 1,118 in 2023 and 990 in 2022. Additionally, there were 4,322 night burglaries in 2024, 4,852 in 2023, and 4,437 in 2022. In 2024, a total of 365 temple burglaries were reported, including 342 nighttime and 23 daytime incidents. In 2023, 409 temple burglaries were reported, with 385 occurring at night and 24 during the day.

Among the 16,845 burglary cases reported in the past three years, only 74 have resulted in convictions (0.43 per cent).

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South), Lokesh B Jagalasar, said that while burglary cases are on a downward trend, the occurrence of daytime or nighttime burglaries largely depends on the accused. Most burglary suspects are habitual offenders inclined by habit to break into homes and establishments. While some have a specific modus operandi, others choose to operate during the day or at night.

He also attributed the slight decline in overall cases to improved policing, CCTV cameras at major locations, and better case detection. He advised the public to alert the control room or local police if their house is locked for more than two days.

BURGLARIES DATA

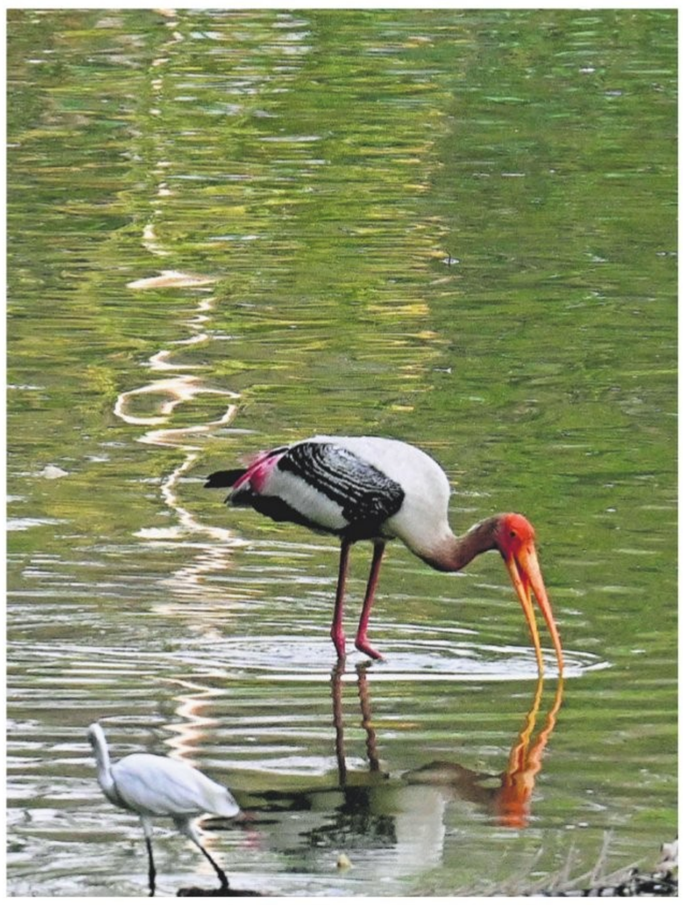
Year	Day	Night	Total
2022	990	4,435	5,425
2023	1,118	4,852	5,970
2024	1,128	4,322	5,450
2025*	248	917	1,185

(*till march)

A senior police officer noted that most burglary incidents previously occurred at night in residential and commercial areas. However, criminals have altered their pattern, now targeting homes during the day, especially over long weekends when people are away.

He added that temple burglaries typically involve the theft of money and gold ornaments from donation boxes, especially in small, rural temples, with amounts ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 5,000.

Another deputy commissioner of police said the low conviction rate in both daytime and nighttime burglaries is primarily due to a lack of witnesses and concrete evidence. Burglaries often occur when no one is home during the day or when residents are asleep at night, making direct eyewitnesses rare. Additionally, suspects often wear gloves or masks, leaving minimal forensic evidence. The challenge of linking suspects to specific crime scenes also complicates proving their court involvement, the officer added.



NATURAL SERENITY

A painted stork and an egret search for fish at Ulsoor Lake in Bengaluru on Sunday. Although their numbers have declined, painted storks can still be seen around Bengaluru's water bodies| SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Temple priests urge Guv to approve muzrai reforms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

POINTING to years of neglect and delay, the Federation of Akhila Karnataka Hindu Temple Archakas, Agamikas and Upadhivanths has urged Governor **Thaawarchand Gehlot** to approve the crucial amendments to the Muzrai Act which has already been passed by both houses of the Karnataka legislature. It said once cleared, the law would allow richer A and B category temples to share their surplus income with underfunded category C temples in villages, which has been a demand for over ten years.

At a press conference on Sunday, the federation also raised alarm over large-scale encroachments of temple land, poor living conditions of priests and the need for monthly support to small temples. They have requested the government to take up a joint survey of these historic temples through the departments of archaeology and Muzrai and sought a budget of Rs 500 crore for their development and conservation.

A delegation, led by federation president Prof KE Radhakrishna and general secretary KSN Dixit, met the governor at Raj Bhavan on Friday and submitted a petition highlighting that more than 36,000 temples under the Muzrai department, especially in rural areas, lack funding and state support. Many of these rural temples are more than 300 years old and are deeply tied to the cultural and religious life of local communities. However, most lack even basic facilities, Radhakrishna said.

Highlighting the widespread encroachment of temple lands, Radhakrishna said nearly one lakh acres of land belonging to Muzrai temples have been illegally occupied across the state, including prime properties in cities like Bengaluru. The federation asked the governor to recommend setting up a special action committee, led by sitting high court judges, to implement the report submitted by former Muzrai secretary A Ramaswamy and recover the encroached lands within a fixed timeframe.

The federation also raised concerns about the safety and dignity of temple priests and workers. It demanded that the state frame clear rules of conduct to prevent abuse or harassment of priests and also requested the launch of a dedicated housing scheme for priests in rural areas and construction of basic facilities such as toilets and bathrooms near temples.

To maintain and improve temple services, it proposed the creation of training centres focusing on Agama traditions, temple rituals and management. These centres, it said, should operate as an official division under the department. Citing the rising cost of living, it also demanded that the government provide Rs 5,000 per month to small temples to cover daily maintenance and operational costs.

EXPRESS READ

One dead, four injured after car rams tree

A 21-year-old man died, and four others were injured after a car lost control and rammed a tree while returning to the city from the Kabbalamma temple in Ramanagara. The incident occurred near Channapatna Road under the Akkur police station limits in Ramanagara district at 7.45 am on Sunday. The deceased, Mohan, was a resident of Hebbal. The injured Manjunatha, the driver, Puneeth, Sangamesha, and Manohar are all in their early 20s.

Estate owner held for abandoning premature girl with cleft lip deformity

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

BYATARAYANAPURA police have arrested a 43-year-old Virajpet coffee estate owner after he and his paramour abandoned their two-week-old premature baby girl, who was born with a cleft lip. They had left the baby in an autorickshaw at the Kengeri Satellite Bus Stand. The couple, involved in an illicit relationship, refused to take responsibility for the child due to her deformity and had travelled to Bengaluru to abandon her, police said.

On April 24, at 5.50 am, Rajasekhar Rao, a resident, heard cries from a parked autorickshaw. Upon checking, he found the baby wrapped in a cloth and left alone in the backseat. He immediately alerted the police, who arrived at the scene and rushed the infant to Vani Vilas Hospital.

According to police, **P Appanna**, a coffee estate owner with a 10-acre farm and a farmhouse near Virajpet, had arrived at the Kengeri Satellite Bus Stand in the early hours with his paramour and her four-year-old son.

"The couple said they were unwilling to care for the child due to her cleft lip and left her because the woman did not want to take responsibility for a baby who couldn't breastfeed due to the deformity," police added.

Both Appanna and the woman are separated from their previous partners. After abandoning the baby in the autorickshaw, they returned home, where police arrested Appanna. The woman, who has one child from a previous relationship, has been sent to a rehabilitation centre due to her alcohol addiction.

The newborn, a premature baby, is currently under the care of the Child Welfare Commission and is being closely monitored at Vani Vilas Hospital.

Stray dogs maul woman to death in Gadag

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

IN a shocking incident, a woman was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs in Gajendragad on Sunday morning. The victim has been identified as Premavva Cholin (54), a resident of Cholin Colony in Gajendragad.

While some of her relatives said that Prema had gone to a nearby market to purchase flowers, some said she was plucking flowers in front of a house when the incident happened.

Prema's relatives and residents of Cholin Colony staged a protest in front of the Government Hospital in Gajendragad and alleged that the incident happened due to the apathy of the local administration. "These dogs become aggressive after eating chicken or mutton flesh. We have filed several complaints and also orally requested many officials and local leaders. They promise to do the needful but end up doing nothing. If the local leaders or officials had taken the necessary steps, a life could have been saved," added a resident of Cholin Colony who was part of the protest.

Gajendragad Town Municipal Council (TMC) president Subhash Myageri said, "We have instructed our officials to take the necessary steps. The TMC will give Rs 3 lakh as compensation to the victim's family and the MLA has also promised to give Rs 2 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund."

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OP SINDOOR: WE SCORED BIG, BUT DO WE HAVE THE STOMACH FOR A LONG-DRAWN-OUT CONFLICT
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NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS
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BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION BASAVA BHAVAN, HIGH GROUNDS BANGALORE-560001
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986
First Appeal No. 971/2024
(Against the order dated 31/07/2023 in Complaint No.411/2021 of the 4th Addl. District Commission, Bangalore)
Cherian. A. Paul and others ...Appellants
Versus Mr. V. Sriram and others ...Respondents
Respondent Name:
Chowriappa Construcitons Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mr.Ashok Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Construcitons Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mrs. Preethi Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Construcitons Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
APPEAL NOTICE UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE AMENDED C.P.A.2019 TO THE RESPONDENT NO.2, 3 AND 4 FOR HEARING THE APPEAL IN ENGLISH NEWS PAPER INDIAN EXPRESS, BANGALORE EDITION:
Whereas, the Appellant has filed the above appeal against the orders passed by the 4th Addl. District Commission, Bangalore in complaint No.411/2021 dated: 31/07/2023. You are hereby notified to appear before this Commission in person or through a pleader or person authorized to answer all the material facts relating to the Appeal on **2nd June, 2025 at 11.00 A.M.** Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above Appeal will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on this 6th May 2025
By Order of the Commission,
Asst.Registrar-Cum-Asst. Admn Officer
KSCDRC. Bangalore

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION BASAVA BHAVAN, HIGH GROUNDS BANGALORE-560001
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986
First Appeal No. 2035/2024
(Against the order dated 31/07/2023 in Complaint No.409/2021 of the 4th Addl. District Commission, Bangalore)
Cherian. A. Paul and others ...Appellants
Versus Mr. Dhirendra Kumar. B. Sharma and others ...Respondents
Respondent Name:
Chowriappa Construcitons Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mr.Ashok Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Construcitons Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
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By Order of the Commission,
Asst.Registrar-Cum-Asst. Admn Officer
KSCDRC. Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the general public that my client **Smt. Suguna .K,** D/o. K.Yella Reddy, residing at 1st Floor, No.101 of property No.2, Survey No.113/3, Lakshminarayana Building, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560066, that she has married to Sri.K.T. Kumar and out of her income from her job and from the capital brought by her parents from Andhra Pradesh, he has purchased number of properties and among the following properties, item Nos.1 and 2 are in their joint names and rest of the properties are standing on his name and in site of the fact that my client is also having equal right over the same, as he is only a name lender to the said properties and she has already initiated legal proceedings against him to get her half share out of the same, he is making hectic efforts to sell away the said properties and to appropriate the sale consideration for himself, depriving my client's and their children share out of the same. Since the said properties are not exclusive property of her husband Mr.K.T.Kumar, it is not available for sale and in spite of this notice, if anyone purchases any portion of the same from him, he or she will be doing so at his/her risk and the same will not be binding on my client and the same will be brought to the notice of the court for appropriate orders.
1) Site bearing Sy.No.113/3, Site Nos. 1 and 2, measuring 30 x 80 square feet (approximately), situated at Nagondanahalli. **2)** Site bearing No.671, Khata No.671/42, measuring 30 x 40 square feet, situated at Dr.Ambedkar Nagar, Pattandur Agrahara, Bangalore. **3)** Site in Survey No.113/5, Khata No.1911, Municipal No.697, measuring 30 x 40 square feet, situated at Nagondanahalli, Bangalore. **4)** Land in Survey No.5/2, Register No.M.L.R-1-01154-2022-23, measuring 2 guntas, situated at Karinayakanahalli, Malur, Kolar District. **5)** Land in Survey No.2/17, measuring 6.12 guntas, situated at Koraluru village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **6)** Residential property bearing Khata No.132/136, PID No. 151900802100800259, measuring East to West: 9.144 meters, North to South: 13.71 meters, totally measuring 125.42 square meters, situated at Anche Muskuru village, Chikkathirupathi Gram Panchayath, Lakkur Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District. **7)** Land in Sy.No.50, measuring 1.04 acres, situated at Turagalur village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District. **8)** Land in Sy.No.44/4 and 44/5, measuring 1.01 acre, situated at Turagalur village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District. **9)** Land in Sy.No.22/3, measuring 1.06 acres, situated at Muthukadahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District. **10)** Site in Survey No.11/19, measuring 3.4 guntas situated at Mallasandra, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **11)** Site in Survey No.131/1, measuring 2.04 guntas situated at Sulikunte village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East. 12) Land in Sy.No.20/1 and 20/2, measuring 1 ½ acres approximately, situated at M.G.Channigarayapura village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District.
JANARDHANA .G Advocate
No.44/14, K.Kamaraja Road, Bengaluru-560 042. Mob: 9448360409
Email: janardhana_g@yahoo.com

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.25,65,509/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Nine only)** as on **07-05-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **08-05-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. F.S.T.Silk Traders, No.42, Nalbandwadi Mohalla, Ramanagara - 562159. No.2) Mr. Zakirulla Shariff, S/o. Wazeer Ahmed, No.42, Nalbandwadi Mohalla, Ramanagara - 562159. No.3) Mrs. Asma Banu, W/o. Zakirulla Shariff, No.42, Nalbandwadi Mohalla, Ramanagara - 562159.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Zakirulla Shariff, S/o. Wazeer Ahmed)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Khatha No.560/A/1070/12/1. Measuring : East to West - 55 feet, North to South - 30 feet, situated at Kothipura 1st Stage, Ramanagara. Boundaries : East by : 25 feet Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Property of Athika Anjum, South by : Remaining Site in same Khatha, Measuring 25 x 55 feet sold in favour of Kwaja Hussain.

Reserve Price : Rs.64,00,000/-
(Rupees Sixty Four Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
20-06-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru - Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the Sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 09-05-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

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Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mrs. Nethravathi .S, W/o. K. Subramani)

All that Piece and Parcel of the Property Bearing No.16, V.P. Khatha No.150. Measuring : East to West - 30 Feet and North to South - 20 Feet. In Total Measuring 600 Sq.Feet. Along with Building Situated at Koralur Grama Thana, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and which is Bounded on the : East : Government Road, West : Property Belongs to Smt. Lakshmamma, North by : Property Belongs to Sri.Nagaraj, South by : Property Belongs to Sri. Chandrappa.

Reserve Price : Rs.16,00,000/-
(Rupees Sixteen Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
17-06-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Marathahalli Branch, Site No.61, 3rd Cross, Ashwath Nagar, Kalamandir Service Road, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037. Cell No. 9343755177.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Marathahalli Branch, Site No.61, 3rd Cross, Ashwath Nagar, Kalamandir Service Road, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Cell No.9343755177. (5)** The property/ ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the Sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 08-05-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.29,38,010/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand and Ten only)** as on **06-05-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **07-05-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Manjunatha .N, S/o. Narasimhaiah, No.90/95, Krishnappa Ravi Building, Rajkumar Road, 4th Block, Agra Gramathan, HSR Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560102. No.2) Mrs. M. Pushpa, W/o. Manjunatha .N, No.90/95, Krishnappa Ravi Building, Rajkumar Road, 4th Block, Agra Gramathan, HSR Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560102.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mrs. M. Pushpa, W/o. Manjunatha .N)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.233, Khata No.190. Measuring about East to West : 37 feet and North to South : 40 feet. Totally 1,480 square feet consisting of Seven Square RCC roofed Mosaic Flooring, Jungle Wood Doors and windows building thereon, situated at Doddakannalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, now coming under BBMP limits it has issued Property No.283/190 at Serial No.1438, bounded as follows : East by : Property No.4, West by : Property No.6, North by : Property No.8, South by : Road. In the midst above said land. (Property covered under Regd. Sale Deed Doc.No.2429/2016-17 of SRO Varthur, Dated 23-09-2016).

Reserve Price : Rs.1,70,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Seventy Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
18-06-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-HSR Layout Branch, No.1672/A, 14th Main Road, Ground Floor, Sector VII (Near BDA Complex, Opp. MAX Showroom), HSR Layout, Bengaluru- 560102. Telephone No.080-25726365, Cell No.7813026080.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-HSR Layout Branch, No.1672/A, 14th Main Road, Ground Floor, Sector VII (Near BDA Complex, Opp. MAX Showroom), HSR Layout, Bengaluru- 560102. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-25726365, Cell No.7813026080. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 08-05-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

To ensure uninterrupted food security for every household, particularly in light of the upcoming monsoon, the Union government has enabled the advance lifting of foodgrains for a period of three months

CRUMBLING INFRA HOBBLES GOVT SCHOOLS

While private schools are going door-to-door to enrol students, even in remote villages, govt schools have made no serious effort to upgrade creaky infrastructure to bring back kids to classrooms

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

THESE are schools of hard knocks.

If education's goal is to prepare a child for survival in challenging Indian conditions, Karnataka's more than 49,000 government schools need no teachers at all. Nearly 50 lakh children enrolled in these schools are learning unforgettable lessons every day, spending their days without basic infrastructure — not enough classrooms, not enough toilets, no drinking water, no electricity, and no playground.

It is a far cry from the smart classrooms every parent aspires for her wards these days.

As per the latest Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE) data, across Karnataka, 1,052 schools remain without 'functional' electricity. Another 213 have no drinking water. Over 2,600 schools have no toilets for boys. Nearly 1,000 have none for girls. And as if invisibility were policy, nearly 43,000 schools have made no provision for disabled-friendly toilets. For over 12,000 schools, even a basic handrail on a ramp is missing — inclusion, as it seems, doesn't come with a blueprint for these schools.

Educationists and child rights activists say that lack of basic amenities plays a crucial role in the increasing number of dropouts. The state's 14.6% dropout rate (2023-24) is higher than the national average of 12.6%.

Karnataka may pride itself on 49,306 government schools, but the question is — how many of them are truly ready to welcome a child, beyond the morning bell?

Necessities lacking even a decade after RTE

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, lays down specific infrastructure norms that all schools must follow to provide a quality learning environment. These include at least one classroom per teacher, separate toilets for boys and girls, adequate drinking water, and playgrounds but when a handful of teachers are expected to manage all school activities, from teaching to administration, how can we expect the learning environment not to suffer? How can the academic burden not worsen existing infrastructure gaps? Development educationist Professor Niranjanaradhya VP argued, highlighting that 'administrative' gaps like lack of teachers and combined classes ultimately worsen the infrastructure gaps.

In 2010, the year the RTE Act was implemented, schools were given a clear deadline of three years to meet these basic infrastructure requirements. Thousands of schools have failed in meeting these norms. This delay, Niranjanaradhya lamented, isn't just a technical lapse — it reflects a systemic neglect of children's fundamental right to a supportive learning environment.

Free education a child's right, not charity

"Across party lines, leaders keep repeating how they've given free uniforms, books, or meals, as if they're offering handouts. It's not something they're 'giving' — it's something every child is entitled to," child rights activist Nagasimha G Rao said.

He added that while private schools are now going door-to-door even in remote villages, government schools — despite being present in these areas for years — have made no serious effort to bring back children. And when they do, it's only to show "increased enrolment" numbers. "Teachers are pressured to chase 100% results and high enrolment, not real learning. If learning really mattered, we wouldn't see students from three different classes sitting in the same room due to the lack of classrooms," Rao said.

Infra gaps contribute to dropouts

Children's curiosity doesn't spark from books alone, it thrives in a space where they can feel connected — the classroom, teachers and sense of belonging, experts said, stressing that when these elements are missing, schools become places where children don't belong, and learning remains a struggle.

But yet, every time exam results are announced, the spotlight finds the government school student. If a child from a government school secures a top rank in SSLC or PUC, their story is shared and their success is proudly claimed by the very system that failed to support them in the first place.

Government officials, departments, ministers, all take credit for these wins as if these children succeeded because of the system, not in spite of it. But experts question why the system only shows up at the finish line? Why does the government not invest and only celebrate the success?

VIJAYANAGARA

Students forced to defecate in open

In Harapanahalli taluk of Vijayanagara district, the kitchen-cum-dining hall at the Minority Morarji Desai Residential School doubles as a sleeping space for 278 students — including 80 girls — from Classes 6 to 10. With no proper hostel rooms and barely functioning toilets, most children are forced to defecate in the open field nearby every day. Despite being a residential school, basic dignity and hygiene remain out of reach. For five years now, construction of a new building has remained stalled, leaving the school to operate out of a structure meant to hold just 100 students. School authorities say work stopped due to "technical issues". However, with no other schools in the vicinity, these students have nowhere else to go.

KODAGU

Schools relying on alumni network for funds

Kodagu's government schools continue to suffer as rain relief works remain stalled — despite the state releasing over Rs 1.16 crore for basic repairs. Funds were meant to build classrooms at Karnataka Public School in Virajpet, and fix leaking roofs and broken compound walls in five other schools, but the project is still stuck in the tender process. Meanwhile, another monsoon looms over already crumbling infrastructure. Though money was routed through the education department to the Panchayat Raj, work on the ground hasn't even begun.

At the same time, schools in the district are battling a severe staff shortage. Over 140 teaching posts are vacant in 47 primary schools, while higher primary schools are short by nearly 400 teachers. Six government primary schools in Kodagu have already shut down this academic year due to zero enrolment and with minimal state support, schools are now forced to rely on alumni networks and school boards to raise funds — turning what should be a government responsibility into a community burden.

UDUPI

Infra gaps due to lack of RTC documents

In Karkala taluk's Koodabettu village, the PM-SHRI Government Primary School — meant to represent the Centre's model for quality education — is still waiting for four additional classrooms to accommodate its 156 students from Classes 1 to 7. Elsewhere in Hebri, the 140-year-old Government Model Higher Primary School, with 750 students from Classes 1 to 8, is grappling with space constraints, functioning with just eight classrooms. No building funds have been released yet. Across Udupi district, many government schools face similar hurdles — unable to construct compound walls or develop playgrounds due to unresolved land ownership issues. Without Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC) documents in the school's name, development work is caught in objections and disputes. These are, however, not isolated issues and signal deep systemic concerns.

DHARWAD

No toilets, playgrounds

In Dharwad district, out of 763 primary and 107 high schools, 674 classrooms need major repairs, and 680 more require minor fixes. Nearly 14% of government schools still operate from rented buildings, reflecting the state's failure to provide permanent infrastructure. While all schools have drinking water, 34% lack compound walls, 37% have no playgrounds, and one in three still don't have separate toilets for girls — basic amenities that should have been non-negotiable by now.

Though the education department claims to have adequate staff and subject experts, routine retirements and transfers continue to disrupt learning. A department official said this data comes from recent assessments, with some repair works under way. But even completed ones are pending formal inauguration — a delay that speaks of how visibility often takes priority over usability.

SHIVAMOGGA

Miscreants misuse school campus

Shivamogga, the home district of state Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, is a tale of two realities. While some government schools in the city boast strong student numbers and better facilities, others struggle without even the basics. The Government Main Middle School on BH Road — in the heart of the city — has been functioning without a compound wall, leaving over 2,000 students, 70% of them girls, exposed to security risks.

Despite repeated requests, including one to the city corporation, the collapsed wall near the Urdu school on campus has not been repaired. Staff from eight institutions sharing the space say miscreants misuse the open campus, leading to thefts and serious safety concerns.

In rural parts like Kote Ganguru village, conditions are worse. The government higher primary school here lacks electricity, drinking water, functional toilets, and even a road — it stands isolated, 2km from the village amid fields. Parents accuse the department of ignoring repeated pleas, and this neglect has cost the school dearly as student strength has dropped from 180 to 150 in a year.

GADAG

Individual efforts helping schools

Individuals have stepped up in Gadag where the system has fallen short. At Sudi Government School, one of the teachers has been contributing part of his salary to improve facilities and it's only this year, in Ron town, the SR Patil Boys Government School is working to arrange water supply. Associations like the local lorry drivers' group have also pitched in by donating TVs and books to libraries. While these efforts are helping schools stay functional — they also reflect how communities are often left to manage government schools on their own.

HASSAN

Funds long overdue

Basic infrastructure remains uneven across Hassan district's 2,431 primary and 582 high schools. While most schools have access to drinking water, toilets and road connectivity, 518 government-run schools still lack compound walls, and 219 operate without playgrounds due to land shortage. About 125 primary schools do not have proper kitchens, relying on makeshift setups to prepare mid-day meals.

While officials claim readiness for the school reopening, School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) members say the education system has long been neglected and that at least now the government must prioritise funding.

CHITRADURGA

No permanent teachers

Eleven government schools in Chitradurga district are without a single permanent teacher. These schools, located across Molakalmuru, Holalkere, Challakere and Hosadurga taluks, are being run entirely by guest teachers appointed last July. According to Deputy Director of Public Instruction Manjunath, the headmasters of nearby schools are managing midday meals, while teaching continues through temporary staff. However, the bright spot is that the basic infrastructure in the region is improving. Davanagere district is currently renovating 584 classrooms and rural schools. Due to MGNREGA efforts, schools are reportedly facing no toilet shortages.

(With inputs from Prakash Samaga/ Udupi, Prajna GR/ Madikeri, Pramod Kumar Vaidya/ Dharwad, Kiran Balannanavar/Vijaynagara, Ramachandra Gunari & Arpitha I/ Shivamogga, Raghu Koppar / Gadag, Uday Kumar/ Hassan, G Subhash Chandra/ Chitradurga)

BLACKBOARD BLUES
49,306
TOTAL NUMBER OF GOVT SCHOOLS
42,839
SCHOOLS WITHOUT TOILETS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
SCHOOLS WITHOUT ELECTRICITY 1,052
SCHOOLS WITHOUT DRINKING WATER FACILITY 213
SCHOOLS WITHOUT BOYS' TOILET 2,647
SCHOOLS WITHOUT GIRLS' TOILET 937
SCHOOLS WITHOUT HAND WASH FACILITY 3,913
SCHOOLS WITHOUT RAMPS 6,114
2,661 HANDPUMP
1,143 WELL
45 UNPROTECTED SOURCES
SOURCES OF WATER
69 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS WITHOUT DRINKING WATER SOURCE WITHIN PREMISES

The collapsed compound wall of the Government Urdu High School in Shivamogga

Activists flag upper castes identifying as SCs

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

CASTE CONUNDRUM

FALSE caste claims are rocking Karnataka's ongoing caste census, with reports that thousands of upper caste individuals are fraudulently identifying as Scheduled Caste (SC) to gain government benefits. More alarming is that enumerators working under the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission have allegedly been instructed not to demand proof or verification of Beda Jangams and Budaga Jangams, and to simply accept the respondent's word as final.

This revelation has prompted SC leaders and rights activists to raise red flags. "Even in recent surveys, numbers show an increase of about 2 lakh entries, which appears suspicious," said Renuka Prasanna, secretary, Veerashaiva Mahasabha. "We are urging people to report their actual caste and not make false claims. Just because an enumerator records, it doesn't mean someone automatically becomes SC, there are official processes involved."

The implications of this alleged loophole are far from minor. A delegation of Scheduled Caste leaders, including former MP Dr L Hanumanthaiah and former minister H Anjaneya, met Justice Nagamohan Das to caution him about the misuse.

Dr L Hanumanthaiah told TNIE, "While we demanded there should be no false entries, the commission said there is a problem because some members have approached the High Court, asking why they were asked to show proof of Beda Jangam and Budaga Jangam identity, while others were not asked for certificates as proof. Considering this serious problem, it is good that enumerators demand proof of identity, because the number of Beda Jangams and Budaga Jangams have shot up from less than 60,000 to over 3 lakh, an increase of 400-500 per cent between 2011 and the present."

"There is clear disparity on how information is being gathered," said a source. "SC families are being asked to fill in up to 54 columns of data, while non-SC families provide only the family head's name and total number of members."

Sources in the Civil Rights Enforcement Cell of the police confirm the problem has snowballed over decades. "Earlier this wasn't common, but since the 1980s, some upper caste individuals began falsely claiming identities like Beda Jangam and Budaga Jangam, even procuring fraudulent caste certificates," a senior officer revealed. "Today, it has reached an alarming level."

RECORD CASTE AS BHOVI OR VADDAR, CORPN CHIEF TELLS COMMUNITY

Shivamogga: Karnataka State Bhovi Development Corporation Chairman S Ravikumar urged people from the Bhovi community to participate in the state's ongoing caste census and accurately record their original caste name as either 'Bhovi' or 'Vaddar' to avoid confusion during the internal reservation process. He told reporters on Saturday that the survey, which began statewide on May 5, is crucial for determining internal reservation allocations among scheduled castes based on caste-wise population data. He appealed to the community to fully cooperate with the enumerators without any delay or excuses. "This caste survey is extremely important for the Bhovi community because the data will shape our future," Ravikumar said. "Based on the caste-wise population figures, internal reservations will likely be allocated. Therefore, it is vital that no one is left out of the process." To increase awareness, Ravikumar said campaigns are being held under the leadership of community seer Immadi Siddarameshwara Swamiji. Local leaders have been assigned responsibilities at districts, taluks and hoblis to ensure broad participation. Ravikumar also noted that survey staff are asking for Aadhaar cards, ration cards and caste certificates. He stressed that data must be recorded only according to the government's official instructions, not based on individual discretion. He asked community leaders to remain alert in this regard. Former Zilla Panchayat member and community leader Veerabhadrappa Pujari added that there have been instances of individuals from other castes slightly altering the word 'Bhovi' to fraudulently access government benefits. Some of these cases have reached the courts, he said. **ENS**

Op Abhyasa simulates bomb blast, boat attack, fire outbreak at KRS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

TOURISTS who had gathered to enjoy the serene beauty of Brindavan Gardens at the KRS dam were left stunned on Sunday as loud sirens, smoke and scenes of chaos unfolded around them. Many were unsure whether they were witnessing a real-life terror attack or a film shoot — only to later realise that it was a high-intensity mock drill conducted by the Mandya district administration as per the Home Ministry's directions.

The drill -- Operation Abhyasa -- was aimed at testing the preparedness and coordination of various departments in case of a potential terrorist attack.

The exercise, which unfolded in three phases, involved police, fire personnel, health officials, NCC cadets and representatives from several other departments.

The first scenario simulated a drowning incident during an attack at the boating point of Brindavan Gardens. As soon as the 'accident' was reported to the control room, alerts were sent out to various departments. Fire and rescue teams rushed in with boats and lifesaving equipment, rescuing the 'victims' from the water.

Police personnel ensured the crowd was controlled and ambulances had free access. Medical teams, including doctors and nurses, were quick to administer first aid on-site and shifted the severely injured to nearby hospitals.

The second phase depicted a major fire breakout at the police guest house next to Hotel Mayura Cauvery run by KSTDC. The final drill was centered around a bomb blast scenario inside the garden.

In the final phase, a 10 minute black-out was observed. Deputy Commissioner Dr Kumara, Zilla Panchayat CEO KR Nandini, and SP Mallikarjuna Baladandi were present to oversee the operations.

Emergency personnel in action during a mock drill at KRS Dam on Sunday | EXPRESS

Tirunelveli police have arrested 33 people this year for allegedly instigating caste-based violence among communities by posting "provocative content" online. The police said so far in 2025, 50 cases have been registered

PAWAN KALYAN CONDEMNS PAK'S DUPLICITY AT AGNIVEER'S FUNERAL

Accuses Pak of lacking consistent policy, calls out its long-standing support to terrorism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Nellore

ANDHRA Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister **Pawan Kalyan** strongly criticised Pakistan's duplicity during a solemn tribute to Agniveer Murali Naik, who was martyred during Operation Sindoor. The tribute was held at Kalli Thanda village in Gorantla mandal of Anantapur district on Sunday.

Addressing the media, Kalyan condemned Pakistan's deceitful actions, highlighting that the neighbouring country violated the ceasefire agreement just three hours after agreeing to it. "No one should trust their so-called peace talks," he remarked, accusing the Pakistan Army of directly instigating terrorist attacks against India. He stated that India, despite never desiring war, was compelled to defend itself due to Pakistan's provocations.

Underlining the gravity of the situation, Kalyan expressed that the people of India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, expect a firm and decisive response to Pakistan's repeated acts of hostility. He emphasised that the Modi government must send a clear message to those engaging in cross-border terrorism.

Reflecting on the sacrifice of Murali Naik, Kalyan noted that the young Agniveer, who joined the Indian Army in 2022, had given up a secure Railway job to serve the nation. "His sacrifice at just 23 years of age highlights the ongoing threat at the borders," he said, extending condolences to the soldier's parents, Jyothibai and Sriram Naik.

The DCM also recalled the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, which claimed 26 lives. Following the attack, India targeted Pakistan-backed terrorist camps, prompting unprovoked firing along the border, affecting Indian states. During this series of escalations, Murali Naik lost his life.

Kalyan accused Pakistan of lacking a consistent policy and said the country's long-standing support for terrorism, which has led to attacks in Delhi, Mumbai, Kashmir, and Coimbatore, among others, must be addressed decisively. He reiterated that the Indian public expects the government to take a tough stance against these repeated provocations. In a significant gesture of support, Kalyan announced a personal contribution of Rs 25 lakh to Murali Naik's family. Additionally, the state government will provide Rs 50 lakh, 5 acres of land, a 300-square-yard housing plot, and a government job to one family member. A memorial will also be constructed to honour Murali Naik's bravery.

Speaking on behalf of both PM Modi and CM N Chandrababu Naidu, Kalyan affirmed the government's commitment to supporting the family. He stated that the nation must remain vigilant as terrorists are always waiting to strike. "A ceasefire from Pakistan should never be mistaken for peace – it's merely a tactic," he asserted.

Agniveer Murali Naik's parents, Jyothibai and Sriram Naik, salute as he is laid to rest in Kalli Thanda village, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday | EXPRESS

FINAL RITES FOR MURALI NAIK PERFORMED WITH STATE HONOURS

ANANTAPUR: The final rites of Agniveer M Murali Naik, who was martyred in the line of duty during Operation Sindoor on the India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir, were conducted with full state honours in his native village of Kalli Thanda, Gorantla Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai district of Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday. A large number of locals, family members, officials, and dignitaries gathered to bid a tearful farewell to the brave soldier. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan paid floral tributes to the martyr. He pledged personal financial aid of Rs 25 lakh to the bereaved family. The Deputy CM, accompanied by ministers Nara Lokesh, Anagani Satya Prasad, Vangalapudi Anitha, S Savitha, and Satya Kumar Yadav, visited the martyr's residence to pay their last respects and console his grieving parents, Jyothibai and Sriram Naik. The leaders offered emotional support and assured them that the government would stand firmly with them. Lokesh not only participated in the funeral, but also carried the martyr's body on his shoulders as a mark of respect. He closely supervised the funeral arrangements and coordinated with officials to ensure the ceremony was conducted with dignity and honour. Later, Lokesh condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, where innocent lives were lost. He praised the Army jawans for their dedication, determination, and unwavering resolve in protecting the motherland, despite continued drone and missile attacks from Pakistan. "Our brave jawans are away from their families, working day and night for the safety of every Indian," he said, adding that Murali Naik was one such soldier. **ENS**

Internal audit targets 'moles' in T'gana ministers' offices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AMID rising concerns over the unauthorised disclosure of sensitive information, the Telangana Government has launched an internal review to identify private individuals from the previous BRS regime who continue to serve in key ministerial offices under the current Congress administration.

According to high-level sources, the CMO has directed the state intelligence department to compile a detailed record of personnel working in the offices of all cabinet ministers. The focus is on identifying private aides — particularly personal assistants, private secretaries, public relations officers and other support staff — who have either remained in their posts or been reappointed despite the change in government. The move follows repeated incidents where internal documents and policy decisions surfaced on social media and Opposition-affiliated platforms before their official release. Officials suspect that individuals retained from the BRS government may be leaking information to their former political networks.

One example cited is Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's office, where his current PA, Venkat Reddy, also served as PA to former finance minister T Harish Rao during the BRS tenure. Similarly, Forests and Environment Minister Konda Surekha's PA, P Krishna, is a holdover from the previous regime. Several PROs across ministries are also said to fall into this category.

Telangana CM **A Revanth Reddy**, sources say, was initially opposed to re-employing staff from the previous government. However, some ministers opted to retain or reappoint their preferred aides, exercising discretion in these appointments. Concerns over internal leaks intensified after a recent incident involving the state's plan to acquire over 439 acres in Puppalaguda, under Gopanpalli revenue village in Rangareddy district. Before any official announcement, documents detailing survey numbers and proposed land use appeared online and were widely shared by BRS-affiliated handles. The government later confirmed that the land is earmarked for an IT Park under TGIIC Limited, but by then, the information had already become public.

The leak has triggered serious concerns within the Congress-led administration over internal security protocols and the continued presence of people with potential allegiances to the previous regime. With Opposition parties gaining early access to confidential documents, the government is now moving to re-evaluate the role of private personnel in governance and enforce tighter control over appointments and information flow.

Padma awardee scientist found dead in Cauvery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

RENOWNED scientist and Padma Shri awardee **Subbanna Ayyappan** was found dead in mysterious circumstances in the Cauvery river, near Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ashram in Srirangapatna taluk, Mandya district, on Saturday evening.

Ayyappan (70) was living with his wife Uma at Sankalp Basant apartment in Visveshwaraya Nagar here. He left his house on his two-wheeler on May 7, and did not return. Worried family members and relatives searched for him and when they could not trace him, filed a missing complaint with Vidyaranyapuram police on May 9. On Saturday evening, police got information of a body floating in the river near the ashram, and rushed to the spot. On verification, the body was identified as that of the scientist. They also found Ayyappan's scooter parked on the banks of the river.

During preliminary investigation, police suspect he might have either accidentally slipped into the water while meditating near the river, or jumped into the river to die by suicide. However, police are verifying the actual cause of death. The body was shifted to KR Hospital mortuary for postmortem.

However, Ayyappan's relative and advocate Srinidhi said Subbanna was a spiritual person and would regularly visit Ramakrishna Ashram in Mysuru, and Sai Baba Ashram in Srirangapatna for meditation. Ramakrishna Ashram head Swamy Muktidanandaji Maharaj said Subbanna Ayyappan used to visit the ashram twice a month, and meditate in the Dhyana Mandir.

Ayyappan was born on December 10, 1955, in Yelandur in Chamarajanagar district. He is survived by his wife Uma and daughters Chinmayi, who lives in Bengaluru, and Tanmayi, residing in the US, and sons-in-law. The last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hills with state honours.

Role in Blue Revolution

Ayyappan did his Bachelor of Fisheries Science in the College of Fisheries in Mangaluru in 1975, and Masters in Fisheries Science in 1977. He got his PhD from the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Bengaluru in 1988. He had served as chairman of National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other top positions in various research institutes across the country. Ayyappan had played a pivotal role in the Blue Revolution. In 2022, he was conferred the Padma Shri, while the state government honoured him with the Rajyotsava award.

After ceasefire, govt to go ahead with Hosapete rally

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

WITH India and Pakistan agreeing on a ceasefire, the Siddaramaiah government has seized the opportunity to go ahead with its 'sadhana samavesha' rally at Hosapete in Vijayanagara on May 20, to mark its two-year term in office. The government had earlier postponed the celebrations in view of the border tension.

Siddaramaiah had held a video conference with DCs and SPs on Saturday evening and instructed them to be prepared for any eventuality in view of the war-like situation. But later, reports of the ceasefire came and he welcomed it.

On Sunday morning, he instructed the Vijayanagara DC to continue with the preparations for the May 20 rally.

Confirming this, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the government will go ahead with the programme to distribute title deeds to 1 lakh families living in places like 'hattis' and 'tandas' that were being given revenue village status, fulfilling a long-pending demand. The entire cabinet is expected to attend the rally where the government will highlight its achievements in two years, including how the five guarantees have brought a transformation in the lives of people.

At the 'yuva parva' rally, an oath-taking ceremony of district Youth Congress office-bearers in Ramanagara on Sunday, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D K Shivakumar said 1 lakh families will get title deeds at the 'sadhana samavesha' rally.

"There is a plan to celebrate the government completing two years in office on May 20 and preparations are under way supervised by minister Krishna Byre Gowda. But we are thinking of going ahead or not because of the fear war-like situation," he said.

Suspect who sought Vikrant's location tracked, but absconding

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

IN a new development in the case of the suspicious call received at the Kochi Naval Base, seeking to know the location of aircraft carrier **INS Vikrant**, the Kochi City Police confirmed on Sunday that the individual behind the call had been identified, but was currently absconding. Citing national security concerns, the police declined to reveal further details but assured that a thorough investigation is under way.

"A case has been registered under Section 319(2) of the BNS for impersonation, and an in-depth probe is ongoing. Due to the sensitivity of the matter concerning national security, we cannot disclose more information at this time," said M Viswambaran, the station house officer of the Harbour Crime Police Station. "We will share further updates with the media once a breakthrough or an appropriate stage in the investigation is reached," he added.

Commenting about the suspicious call, Shibu, the investigation officer and the sub-inspector with the Harbour Crime Police Station, elaborated that the call was received on the official telephone line of the Kochi Naval Base around 9.15 am on Friday. The caller identified himself as 'Raghavan' from the Prime Minister's Office and inquired about the location of the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. When the Naval officer on duty requested further identification, the caller shared a mobile number, but abruptly disconnected the call when pressed for more details.

Meanwhile, a source with Kochi City Police speculated that the call may have originated from someone merely curious about the Indian Armed Forces' operations, although the matter continues to be treated with utmost seriousness.

ONE WITH NATION

A special prayer in progress for the safety and wellbeing of the Indian Armed Forces, its personnel, and citizens, at St Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church, Elamkulam, in Kochi on Sunday | A SANEESH

EXPRESS READ

BJP activists booked for attacking Karachi Bakery

HYDERABAD: At least 10 BJP supporters were booked for allegedly attacking a Karachi Bakery outlet in Shamshabad on Saturday around 3 pm. The RGI Airport police registered a case under Section 126(2) (wrongful restraint, referring to the act of intentionally obstructing a person) against the accused. RGI Airport Inspector K Balaraju said the case was registered against 10 persons, including BJP town president Vamshi. The protesters did not enter the bakery, but damaged its signboard. "They protested outside the bakery, demanding a change of its name from Karachi," he said. Karachi Bakery was founded in 1953 by Khanchand Ramnani, a Sindhi Hindu migrant who moved to Hyderabad during the Partition in 1947.

New Kerala Congress chief to take office today

T'PURAM: Sunny Joseph MLA will assume charge as the new Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president on Monday. Adoor Prakash MP will take over as the UDF convenor, while MLAs PC Vishnunath and AP Anilkumar, and MP Shafi Parambil will be sworn in as working presidents. On Tuesday, they will attend a meeting in New Delhi, and hold discussions with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

DCET application deadline extended till tomorrow

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Examination Authority announced that the last date to apply for Diploma Common Entrance Test (DCET) has been extended till May 13. KEA Executive Director H Prasanna said the candidates are requested to submit their application by 11 am on May 13, however the time for fee payment is extended until 6 pm. DCET is conducted to provide direct admissions to 3rd semester and 2nd yr engineering courses for diploma holders.

Monsoon likely to hit Karnataka on May 28

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE southwest monsoon is expected to arrive in Karnataka early this year, as the IMD has predicted an early onset in Kerala on May 27. Weather experts are hoping that the monsoon may reach Karnataka on May 28.

In Karnataka, rainfall is expected to be above normal to excessive this year. "Coastal and Malnad regions are likely to receive excess rainfall, while other parts of the state may witness above normal," Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC) former director Srinivas Reddy said.

According to the forecast, the monsoon will hit Kerala on May 27 and if the cloud formation does not get dispersed, it will arrive in Karnataka on May 28, which is early, Reddy said. "Provided if the weather system is in favour of Karnataka." Experts also predicted that between June and the end of September or the first week of October, the average rainfall will be 860 mm. This time, the prediction is around 5% more than normal, which is 900 mm of average rainfall.

Meanwhile, KSNDMC is anticipating normal thunder showers in isolated areas across the state for the next week.

PLAN TO REOPEN MAHAL-KEMMANGUNDI LINK ROAD TO BE PRESENTED TO GOVT AGAIN

B THIPPERUDRAPPA @ Chikkamagaluru

THE Mahal-Kemmangundi link road has been closed for years as it passes through the Jagara Reserve Forest. The 8km road from Attigundi enroute to Mahal to reach the popular hill station, Kemmangundi, was earlier used by private buses and tourist vehicles. Though a mud road, it helped local residents and tourists to reach the hill station in a short time. After the Bhadra sanctuary was declared a Tiger Reserve, the road which falls in the Jagara Valley range was closed for traffic.

The Mahal-Kemmangundi link road which has been closed for traffic | EXPRESS

Tourist vehicles visiting Mullayanagiri, Seetalayyana Giri, Datta Peeta and Manikyadhara in the Chandra Drona hill ranges have to take a detour of around 30 km from Attigundi through Kaimara, Shantaveri, Lingadahalli and Kallathigiri falls. After visiting Kemmangundi, they have to return via Birur and Tarikere.

Chikkamagaluru MLA HD Thammaiah has now taken an initiative to develop and reopen the road. After laying the foundation stone for a concrete road from Attigundi to Kolagame on Saturday, Thammaiah said he has set sights on developing the Mahal-Kemmangundi link road that will benefit tourists.

A proposal to develop this road at approximately Rs 33 crore was submitted to the government through district in-charge minister KJ George, but the proposal was returned citing technical reasons.

"Another meeting will be held in the presence of the minister and a decision will be taken to assure the forest department that no damage will be done to the environment. This will reduce the density of vehicles on Mullayanagiri and Datta Peeta roads. The priority is to provide basic facilities to tourists," he observed.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU
MONDAY
12.05.2025

DAY 5

OPERATION SINDOOR

TO CEASEFIRE

Blackout continues in Rajasthan's border districts, amid claims of drone sightings

- Amid claims and worries of violations by Pakistan of the military ceasefire with India, a precautionary blackout has been imposed in Jaisalmer, Barmer, and other border districts of Rajasthan
- Reports of suspected drone sightings have emerged especially from Barmer, whereby heightened security measures still remain in force in western Rajasthan
- Despite the resumption of normal activities and restored train services all through the day on Sunday, alleged drone sightings have led to the re-imposition of the blackout, with officials maintaining strict vigilance

HOW INDIA, PAK ARRIVED AT A TRUCE

Even when phone lines lit up New Delhi, the stance was clear — no political or diplomatic channels, dialogue only via DGMO; but Pak's intention was to escalate

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

AT 1.30AM on May 7, shortly after a precision military operation was completed, India's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called his Pakistani counterpart, Major General Kashif Abdullah, to convey that India had struck terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The operation, named Operation Sindoor, was launched at 1.05am and lasted just 25 minutes, during which the Indian Armed Forces fired 24 missiles at nine terrorist camps identified as staging grounds for attacks against India.

The DGMO emphasised that the strike was measured, precise, and non-escalatory, with no Pakistani military assets targeted — only terrorist infrastructures were hit.

Soon after the strike, phone lines between several world capitals and New Delhi lit up, as "diplomats and leaders, who earlier wondered how India would respond to Pahalgam, were now eager to know what would come next," sources said.

India had already made it clear that it would not be business as usual if terror camps across the border continued to operate — and that any provocation would be met with a firm response. This position was conveyed during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's call with US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Marco Rubio on May 1.

Director General of Military Operations Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai

"Wahan se goli chalegi, toh yahan se gola chalega" (If bullets come from there, shells will come from here) was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clear message. "It couldn't have been anything else. We were certain that a new normal had been established," a source said.

Soon after the military operation concluded, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval spoke with Marco Rubio and other key interlocutors. As calls began pouring in, several countries expressed concern that tensions between the two neighbours could escalate further. Leading the outreach — apart from the United States — were Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iran, and Egypt, seeking clarity, urging restraint or opening talks.

"Our position was clear: we are open to dialogue through one communication channel — the DGMO — and nothing beyond that. We are not seeking escalation, but any further provocation will be met with a response," said a source. However, despite this stance, no DGMO call came through.

> *Some of the interlocutors were preachy as well, but we told them, 'This is our stand, what you will tell Pakistan is your choice... Our position is that if they escalate, we will escalate'*
>
> Source

Of the many calls, at least twelve countries supported India's right to defend itself.

"Some of the interlocutors were preachy as well, but we told them, 'This is our stand, what you will tell Pakistan is your choice... Our position is that, if they escalate, we will escalate."

Diplomatic engagement got stepped up with the US as it was sponsoring the resolution at the United Nations Security Council. "There were many calls as we couldn't have left anything to chance, as Pakistan is sitting on the Security Council. But the biggest shot in the arm came when Pakistan pulled all stops to ensure that the name of the terror organisation, The Resistance Force, is omitted from the list. We stressed this point in the subsequent conversation with all key countries to establish the pattern of Pakistan protecting the terror outfits targeting India."

Within 48 hours of the May 7 strikes, the situation grew tense, drawing significant concern from world leaders. The United States expressed support for direct dialogue between India and Pakistan, offering to mediate the discussions.

The European Union also urged both countries to engage in talks and ensure the protection of civilian lives amid rising tensions.

Saudi Arabia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Adel Aljubeir, made an unannounced visit to India and met with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday to focus on de-escalating the situation. Simultaneously, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi furthered efforts to engage in diplomatic dialogue and reduce the risk of further escalation.

"Frankly, Pakistan was not listening to any of them for a long time and was on an escalation ladder," said a source.

For the second consecutive night on May 9, Pakistan carried out heavy shelling across Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan along the International Border and the Line of Control. Drones were sighted at 26 locations, including suspected armed drones in areas from Baramulla to Bhuj.

In Punjab's Amritsar alone, 15 drones were spotted; most were neutralised as a red alert was issued. Explosions were reported in Baramulla, Kupwara, Pathankot, and Samba, while three civilians were injured in Firozpur. At least nine drones were shot down in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer,

with additional interceptions in Barmer, Pokhran, and J&K's Uri and Handwara regions.

On the same day, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy spoke to Jaishankar "urging him to show restraint and engage in direct dialogue to find a swift, diplomatic path forward to resolve the issue." Jaishankar said the DGMO channel is still open, and Pakistan is on an escalation path, and India is "adamant on zero tolerance to terrorism." Lammy also spoke to Pakistan leadership.

India's retaliation to the targeting of 26 locations marked a decisive shift, prompting the United States to intensify diplomatic efforts, according to Indian sources. Around the same time, Pakistan raised nuclear rhetoric, which drew international concern, though Islamabad later denied taking any concrete steps.

The Indian Air Force on May 10 carried out strikes on military targets in Pakistan's Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, Chunian, Pasrur, and Sialkot. These precise and escalatory strikes pushed the US to actively engage, urging India to "ramp off" and avoid further escalation as global powers sought to de-escalate rising regional tensions.

Soon after the escalation, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Pakistani Army Chief General Asim Munir — a call that sources emphasised was initiated at Pakistan's request. Acknowledging the rising tensions, Rubio urged both sides to explore ways to de-escalate and offered US support in facilitating "constructive talks" to prevent further conflict.

A few hours later, Rubio called up Jaishankar with the message that "Pakistan is willing to talk" and said a "constructive talk" is the need of the hour.

Jaishankar said that the DGMO lines will be the only channel, and India will not activate any political or diplomatic channel.

Early hours of May 10, US Vice President J D Vance called up Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the same demand for talks to dial down the tension. During discussions on de-escalation with Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi "firmly" told US Vice President J D Vance that any attack by Pakistan would be met with a stronger response.

"The Prime Minister was clear — if they attack, we will hit back harder," a source said. As the messages got relayed back to Pakistan, Pakistan's DGMO made a call to his Indian counterpart at 1pm. "Since the DGMO was held up in meetings, the call finally happened at 3.35pm."

There was considerable back-and-forth between India and Pakistan over the wording of the ceasefire statement.

After intense exchanges, both sides agreed on the operational language, which read: "It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land, in the air, and at sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time today. Instructions have been given on both sides to give effect to the understanding."

As both sides went on to finalise the agreement, US President Donald Trump took to social media to publicly announce the ceasefire, signalling Washington's active involvement and interest in preventing further escalation between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

SERIES OF EVENTS

MAY 7: 1.05am - India launches Operation Sindoor

1.30am: Precision strikes dismantle 9 terror hotbeds deep inside Pakistan, PoK

1.30am: India's DGMO calls his Pakistani counterpart to convey that India had struck

Phone lines light up in New Delhi. World calls

Minutes later: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval speaks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other key interlocutors

Of the many calls, 12 countries back India's right to defend itself

MAY 9: US expresses support for direct dialogue between India and Pakistan, offers to mediate the discussions

European Union urges for talks

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Affairs Minister makes unannounced visit to India, meets S Jaishankar

Night of May 9: Pakistan carries out heavy shelling in the borders areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan

Drones sighted

Later in the night: British Foreign Secretary David Lammy speaks to MEA S Jaishankar.

"Show restraint, engage in dialogue," Lammy says. However, Jaishankar maintains that DGMO channel open

US intensifies diplomatic efforts

MAY 10: India carries out strikes on military targets in Pakistan

US actively engages India, urging the latter to avoid further escalation

Marco Rubio speaks with Pakistani Army Chief, General Asim Munir

Few hours later: Rubio calls up MEA S Jaishankar.

"Pakistan in for talks" Jaishankar says "India will not activate any political or diplomatic channel."

Informs Rubio again that DGMO lines are open

Early hours May 10: US Vice President J D Vance calls up Narendra Modi to dial down tensions.

Modi maintains that "any attack by Pakistan will be met with a stronger response."

This message is relayed back to Pakistan

1.00am: Pakistan DGMO makes a call to his Indian counterpart.

Call does not connect

3.35pm: Call finally happens

Ceasefire in works; to be in effect from 5pm

US President Donald Trump announces to world that US has brokered a peace between India and Pakistan

US Vice President J D Vance and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi | FILE PIC

Use of BrahMos supersonic missile to target airbases unnerved Islamabad

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

INDIA'S DECISIVE move to attack multiple airbases using BrahMos missiles cornered Pakistan and forced them to agree to a ceasefire, highly-placed sources told *TNIE*.

Indeed, the damage wreaked by these supersonic cruise missiles, used for the first time by India in combat, had exposed Pakistan's military capability and rendered their tactical deployment of nuclear weapons near impossible.

"The missile was mounted on a Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jet and targeted Pakistan's key military installations and air bases, including Noor Khan (Chaklala), which is 10 kilometres from Islamabad and used by their army chief," sources said. The damage to Noor Khan was such that it neutralised access to their nuke assets after the missile destroyed the road and air strip. The images of the airbases after the strike showed extensive damage.

"The tactical use of the cruise missile was meant to undermine Pakistan's posturing as a nuclear power. It was the turning point which sent shock waves to Rawalpindi and sobered the military leadership, including its Army chief, Asim Munir. A day before, India had struck the air defence system at Lahore, which had already laid bare Pakistan's vulnerabilities in detecting India's missiles that hit the targets with precision deep inside their territory," sources said.

Among India's other targets was also the Shahbaz airbase in Jacobabad, 500 kilometres northeast of Karachi. This base is critical to the Pakistan Air Force as it is the home of the Number 5 squadron, which operates F16 fighter jets, critical for Pakistan's air combat prowess.

Besides Chaklala, BrahMos was used to strike air bases in Rafiqui (Shorkot), Murid (Chakwal), Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, Chunian (Kasur), and other critical radar installations at Pasrur and Sialkot. Major damage was also reported at airfields in Skardu, Bholari and Sargodha.

Besides Chaklala, BrahMos was used to strike air bases in Rafiqui, Murid, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, Chunian, and other critical radar installations at Pasrur and Sialkot

> **The missile was mounted on a Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jet and targeted Pakistan's key military installations and air bases, including Noor Khan (Chaklala), which is 10 kilometres from Islamabad**
>
> A source

LONG-RANGE RAMJET SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE

BrahMos is a long-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile with a high-explosive, conventional warhead. The missile can take any trajectory predetermined by the user. It is similar to a pilotless aircraft that can be launched from any platform — submarines, ships or fighter aircraft. Its speed is 2.8 Mach, approximately 900 metres per second, and can cover 300 to 800 kilometres. Fatah-2 is a ballistic missile which follows a free-fall trajectory of a stone thrown in the sky and a parabolic drop. BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya. They have together formed BrahMos Aerospace. A new BrahMos facility was opened in Lucknow on Sunday.

The attacks came in response to Pakistan's attempt on May 9 to target New Delhi with a Fatah-2 ballistic missile, which was intercepted and brought down by the S-400 Air Defence System near Sirsa in Haryana,125 km from the capital.

The escalation of hostilities between the two countries was brought to a halt following the intervention of the US President Donald Trump, who on Saturday, announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire."

Later, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that the DGMOs of the two countries had agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5pm on the same day. However, Pakistan violated the ceasefire a few hours later.

When dawn broke on Sunday, reports came in that the ceasefire had indeed been sustained, but India remains still on high vigil.

Sindoor a message to Pak: Rajnath calls operation a testament to India's resolve

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

REITERATING THAT the valour of the Indian Armed Forces during Operation Sindoor echoed beyond the borders and into Rawalpindi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the strike on terror camps in Pakistan was not just a military action, but a symbol of India's political, social, and strategic resolve.

The Indian Army showed immense courage, discipline and unmatched bravery to deal a decisive blow to Pakistan terror networks, the minister said whilst virtually inaugurating the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile production unit in Lucknow on the occasion of National Technology Day on Sunday.

He underlined that the ongoing operation reflects India's firm determination to fight terrorism and showcases the strength of the Armed Forces. "We have made it clear that whenever India acts against terrorism, even territory across the border will no longer be safe for terrorists and their handlers," Rajnath said.

The minister added that Indian forces launched Operation Sindoor to dismantle terror infrastructure within Pakistan. "We never targeted civilians. However, Pakistan attacked Indian civilian areas and attempted strikes on temples, gurdwaras, and churches," he noted.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, joining virtually from New Delhi, the inauguration of the BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility in Lucknow | PTI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility, in Lucknow | PTI

BrahMos unit

The BrahMos unit, established in Bhatgaon on the Lucknow-Kanpur Road, is a joint venture between India's DRDO and Russia's NPOM, with India holding a 50.5 per cent stake. According to officials, the BrahMos plant is the first defence manufacturing unit in the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor. Built for Rs 300 crore (excluding land), it was completed in just 3.5 years after its foundation in December 2021 on 80 hectares of land allotted free of cost.

the world now sees a new India unafraid of taking decisive action across its borders, Rajnath said.

Path to self-reliance

The Defence Minister, who also represents Lucknow in Lok Sabha, said he was pleased to witness increased private sector participation in the defence sector, citing the launch of titanium and super-alloy material plants by PTC Industries Limited, and the launch of seven more critical projects in Lucknow. "This will accelerate India's path to self-reliance in defence," Rajnath said.

He also highlighted major investments in the UP Defence Corridor, spanning aircraft manufacturing, UAVs, drones, ammunition, composites, textiles, and more, with significant contributions from both public and private sectors.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

DAY 5

OPERATION SINDOOR TO CEASEFIRE

BENGALURU
MONDAY
12.05.2025

Operation Sindoor continues: PM holds strategic review amid ceasefire

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a fourth consecutive high-level meeting on Sunday with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, MEA S Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, CDS Anil Chauhan, and tri-services chiefs to review Operation Sindoor
- Despite the ceasefire agreement with Pakistan on Saturday, the government indicated that Operation Sindoor would continue, showing no signs of winding down
- At the meeting, Modi stressed the need for "high-level alertness" to counter any potential cross-border threats during the ceasefire

Customers dine at a local eatery in Amritsar on Sunday, as daily life begins to normalise following a bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan | PTI

Punjab on alert: Schools shut in 5 dists, voluntary blackouts advised in two

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

IN THE border districts of Punjab along the Indo-Pak border, authorities are taking no chances. The Ferozepur and Pathankot district administrations have advised residents to implement voluntary blackouts and stay home after 8 pm. All educational institutions in the five border districts will be closed on Monday, whereas schools, colleges, and universities in the rest of the state will reopen on Monday.

A message from the Ferozepur district administration says, "Dear all, advisories for today: please switch off lights voluntarily at 8 pm, avoid unnecessary outdoor movement, and remain calm while staying alert to messages from the district administration. The situation is currently peaceful; we will notify you of any potential threats. Schools will be closed tomorrow in Ferozepur. Thank you for your cooperation and resilience." Regards, deputy commissioner, Ferozepur.

The Pathankot district administration has issued similar advisories.

In addition, all educational institutions in Amritsar, Taran Tarn, Gurdaspur, and Pathankot districts will remain closed on Monday.

Considering the current situation, Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains directed all government and private institutions to prioritise the safety and well-being of students, especially those remaining on campus. He said that no student should feel compelled to leave if they have safety, transport, or personal concerns. Bains also said that a letter has been issued to all universities stating that students who choose to return home will not face academic penalties, and examinations may be rescheduled or alternative arrangements made as needed.

To facilitate support, he directed institutions to designate nodal officers and establish help desks for effective communication with students, promptly addressing any concerns or issues that may arise.

BORDER RESIDENTS HEAVE SIGH OF RELIEF

Since the ceasefire came into effect, there have been no reports of shelling, firing, or drone sightings across J&K

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

THE border residents of Uri and other areas in Jammu and Kashmir have expressed relief following the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan. Since the ceasefire came into effect, there have been no reports of shelling, firing, or drone sightings across the Union Territory. Those who have been most affected by the cross-border shelling are now hopeful for lasting peace.

Police have advised residents who had relocated to safer areas not to return home until unexploded shells are cleared. On Sunday, the absence of sirens and explosions created a semblance of normalcy throughout Jammu and Kashmir. Markets in Srinagar and other parts of the valley buzzed with activity.

Residents recounted the terrifying moments leading up to the ceasefire. "Yesterday was a very scary evening as loud explosions were heard around Srinagar. My children were fear-stricken, especially after the blackout that followed," said Mushtaq Ahmed, a resident of the Srinagar outskirts.

In Uri, which has been a focal point of heavy shelling and has experienced significant destruction, including the death of one woman and injuries to 14 others, the situation is slowly stabilising. "There has been no shelling since yesterday morning. This is a big relief for us as we had been living under constant fear," said local resident Abdul Qayoom Ganai. He emphasised the community's hope for the ceasefire to hold and for lasting peace between India and Pakistan.

Despite the ceasefire, the market in Uri remained closed, as most locals had fled to safer areas in Baramulla and beyond. "There's no tension, and people are moving freely, but only a handful remain in Uri now," Abdul said, adding that many residents were sleeping in the local mosque for safety.

While the administration monitors the situation, border residents have been urged to remain cautious. "We advise residents not to return home for the next few days until all unexploded ordnance is cleared and the ceasefire's stability is assessed," an official said.

Syed Mustafa, another resident of Uri, shared the community's hope for peace, saying, "The ceasefire is a big relief for all border residents. We pray it holds; war is never a solution, and nobody dislikes peace." He said, "For the first time in a week, there was no shelling during the night." His sister's home was among those damaged in the recent shelling.

The border regions of Uri, Tangdhar in north Kashmir, and Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu have suffered immensely amid the escalating tensions, especially following India's launch of Operation Sindoor aimed at militant infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK. Since the operation began, the violence has resulted in at least 24 fatalities due to Pakistani artillery shelling.

People shop in a bustling market area in Srinagar on Sunday | PTI

Tailors at work in Uri on Sunday, as normal life resumes following ceasefire | PTI

Residents of border villages wait in Baramulla on Sunday after authorities advised them not to return home until the areas are cleared of unexploded shells | PTI

Remain cautious, authorities tell residents

While the administration monitors the situation, border residents have been urged to remain cautious. "We advise residents not to return home for the next few days until all unexploded ordnance is cleared and the ceasefire's stability is assessed," an official

The ceasefire is a big relief for all border residents. We pray it holds; war is never a solution, and nobody dislikes peace
— Syed Mustafa, a resident of Uri

MARCH FOR JAWANS

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and others take part in a 'Walk for Nation', to thank the Indian Army for its service in Operation Sindoor, in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Our Army will respond to Pak's double game, says Joshi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hubballi

WITH Pakistan continuing its aggression against India, despite a ceasefire being declared between the two countries, the Centre has given a free hand to the Indian Armed Forces to effectively act against the neighbouring country, Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi said on Sunday.

It is well known that Pakistan always follows a dual stance. Moreover, the fact that its military does not heed its elected civilian government has once again been proven, Joshi told the media here. "After the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam on April 22, our government gave the armed forces full freedom to teach Pakistan a lesson. Accordingly, the forces launched sharp retaliatory strikes, destroying a large number of terrorist infrastructure," he said. On the very first day, the forces struck nine locations in Pakistan, with the intent to destroy terrorist hideouts. A significant number of terrorists were killed in these strikes. Many shelters have been busted, and key terrorists have been eliminated, he informed.

For the first time, the Centre has taken the harshest stance, pledging to completely root out terrorism from the country. Even before Pakistan's ceasefire proposal, it had made the unprecedented decision to treat terrorism as an act of war, he said.

Further he informed that it was Pakistan's DGMO who had called his Indian counterpart, urging a ceasefire. "But now they have violated it. Pakistan, which has always harboured terrorists and terror organisations, will get an answer from the Indian Army," he said.

Separately, Joshi mentioned that after Narendra Modi became prime minister, there has been a drastic decline in terror incidents in the country. Earlier, even when large-scale terror attacks occurred, India used to respond mildly. "But for the first time, we have struck directly inside Pakistan," he noted.

After the Pahalgam attack, for the first time, the entire nation is united in its fight against terror. In India's retaliatory strikes, those involved in the Kandahar case and key terrorists, along with their some of their kin, have been eliminated. "India is a peace-loving nation, and Indians have always been peace-loving, and we never raise arms against anyone without reason. But if someone attacks us, we will not spare them," Joshi warned.

India is a peace-loving nation, and Indians have always been peace-loving, and we never raise arms against anyone without reason. But if someone attacks us, we will not spare them — Pralhad Joshi, Union minister

All soldiers from D'gere village return to duty

ENS @Davanagere

NEARLY six soldiers from Tolahunase, who had come to their village on annual leave, rushed back to attend the call of duty, in the wake of India-Pakistan cross-border tensions.

The village, located on the outskirts of Davanagere city, is home to 400-500 military personnel, who have served in the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy. Hence, Tolahunase is popularly called 'Soldiers Village'.

Sunil Naik, brother of Krishna Naik, posted with the Madras Sappers, said, "My brother came to our village on April 20, and was on leave till May 30, however, he had to cut short his holiday due to the India-Pakistan tensions at the border, and rush back to his post in Ambala, immediately."

In this village, there are soldiers in every household. Sunil said that soldiers hailing from Tolahunase are posted in Jammu and Kashmir. So far, more than 400 men from this village have served the country. "We are proud that the soldiers of our village are serving the nation in these uncertain times," he said.

In the wake of the tense situation between India and Pakistan, the Indian Army had issued an urgent orders for leaves of serving personnel to be cancelled, and that they return to duty.

Lakshman Naik and Shakuntala Bai's son Ravindra Kumar was enjoying his annual vacation, but returned to duty in Kerala, on May 2.

Lakshman said, "It has been 15-20 years since my son joined the Army. He had come to our village on vacation, but due to the impending situation at the border, he was recalled on urgent basis. I am proud that my son is serving the nation in the time of an emergency."

THROUGH THE UNCERTAINTY

13 students from K'taka studying in Srinagar reach Delhi amid safety concerns

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AMID raging security concerns in Jammu and Kashmir, in the wake of cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan, 13 students from Karnataka studying at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology in Srinagar, have safely arrived in New Delhi. The movement was facilitated by the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries, under the supervision of Union minister HD Kumaraswamy.

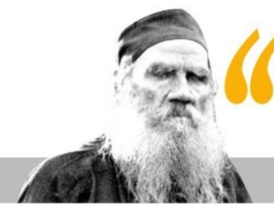
According to a statement, the government acted swiftly to ensure that the students were brought to safety. The group travelled from Srinagar to Jammu by bus, and then onward to Delhi by train. Ministry officials received the students upon arrival at the railway station and escorted them.

Harshith, one of the students, said, "We were uncertain and anxious when tensions arose in the region. But the Centre's quick response changed everything. From the moment we were informed of the arrangements, we felt taken care of."

Bhagyashree Prasad, another student, shared, "I want to thank our prime minister for standing by us during this difficult time. We are proud to be part of a country where students' safety is taken so seriously. The ministry's support, especially the personal involvement of Kumaraswamy, gave us much confidence."

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in moments like these is both inspiring and reassuring. His clear instructions and deep personal commitment to every citizen's welfare enabled swift coordination between departments. I commend our security agencies, railway personnel, and ministry officials who acted with precision and compassion. The safety of our people, especially students from distant regions, is our foremost priority," Kumaraswamy said.

EDITORIAL



"If everyone fought for their own convictions there would be no war" — Leo Tolstoy

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

PAK MADE AWARE INDIA WILL EXTRACT PRICE FOR CROSS-BORDER TERROR

FOUR days after India's swift response through Operation Sindoor for the Pahalgam terror attack, a tentative halt to military action has taken hold. India and Pakistan agreed Saturday to suspend hostilities from 5 pm. Yet, within hours, Pakistan breached the agreement—a grim reminder that peace in this region remains hostage to volatility. What we witness is the emergence of a new normal. India has drawn a hard red line: terrorism will invite retaliation, and no place in Pakistan is off-limits. This is a fundamental shift from earlier postures of strategic restraint or limited surgical strikes. Operation Sindoor signals India's resolve to treat any future terror attack not as an isolated incident, but as an act of war, with consequences.

The military escalation has drawn global attention. The United States led the diplomatic scramble to contain the crisis, with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Iran also stepping in. India, however, kept communication strictly limited to the Directors General of Military Operations, signalling a refusal to engage in futile dialogue while terrorism remains Pakistan's state-sponsored policy. This uneasy calm is not peace but a pause that underscores the urgent need for a coherent, forward-looking policy. Pakistan's deep state and its decades-old entanglement with terror networks cannot be ignored or wished away. Western nations, too often complicit in inaction, continue to urge restraint from India while sidestepping the core issue of cross-border terrorism. That double standard must be confronted.

India must now forge a calibrated strategy—military, political, and psychological—to impose an unequivocal cost on Pakistan for every act of terror. Traditional thinking will not suffice in this transformed strategic landscape. India must also be ready to call China's bluff—whether through border posturing or diplomatic meddling, Beijing's shadow over the region must be met with clarity and counter-pressure.

In times of conflict, truth often becomes the first casualty. Alongside misinformation from across the border, sections of our media contributed to panic through unverified, sensationalist reporting. *The New Indian Express* took a principled stand—rigorous fact-checking, no false flags, and responsible journalism. That credibility earned the trust of our readers, a trust we are committed to upholding. This fragile calm must not lull us into complacency. India must be prepared, resolute, and unwavering because peace ultimately rests not on words but on strength.

MARKETS LOOK FOR LIFTING OF WAR FOG

IT was a Black Friday of a different sort for Indian stock markets last week, with the Sensex opening 1,366 points lower. Spooked by the rising India-Pakistan tensions, traders indulged in a selloff that wiped out as much as ₹4 lakh crore from the market capitalisation. India's VIX, a measure of market volatility, shot past 8 percent, the highest level seen in over a month. The rupee extended its decline on the same day, a day after logging the worst session in over two years. Friday's market movements were starkly different from the previous sessions. While the Indian bourses maintained steam until Friday, Pakistan's benchmark KSE30 index crashed 7.2 percent on Thursday, triggering a one-hour trading halt. In just three days last week, the Karachi bourse lost ₹1.3 lakh crore in capitalisation.

While the KSE30 has plunged more than 14 percent since the Pahalgam attack, India's stock market has risen about 1 percent over the same period. However, Friday saw a trend reversal with Pakistan's broader KSE100 index staging a strong comeback, gaining 2,200 points in the morning, as investors were keenly looking ahead at the upcoming IMF board review to sanction the next tranche of its bailout package, which was eventually cleared. On the other hand, both the Sensex and the Nifty50 fell 1.10 percent each. Analysts believe Friday's rout was not as pronounced as it could have been, thanks to a better earnings season.

Moreover, foreign portfolio investors have returned as net buyers, while tailwinds such as interest rate cuts, a pay commission rollout and a likely reduction in fuel prices are expected to spur domestic consumption. They will also keep an eye on the US-China trade talks, whose second round was underway in Geneva on Sunday. Lastly, the India-UK trade deal, signed after a long wait of three years, has raised expectations of striking a similar deal with the US. If that happens, it would aid exports and thereby our growth prospects. All said, markets do not prefer protracted, full-blown conflicts that deplete human, economic and other strategic resources. If the ceasefire holds despite the provocations, it would be a cause for buoyancy among investors. In any case, the Indian indices are expected to withstand short-term volatilities and fare better, thanks to the strong macroeconomic fundamentals.

QUICK TAKE

GET GRID, GO GREEN

SPAIN'S green energy grid snapped last fortnight, partially extending the blackout to Portugal and France. Frequency and stability issues impaired the grid. Spain's wind, solar, nuclear and gas power accounted for 79 percent of generation at that time. The infrastructure paralysis punctured Europe's complacency about its renewable energy transition, unaccompanied by investments in grid, storage, and battery technologies. It revived pro-fossil-based generation arguments and prodded nuclear advocates to push their alternative. India has a hybrid nuclear plus non-fossil-fuel energy plan. The Spanish catastrophe must spur India to review its scale of investments in reliable storage solutions for a stable power grid to store/release surplus energy during high-generation and peak-demand times.

The US intervention came, if at all, perhaps because it sensed that Pakistan was going to be hugely decimated, especially when its Nur Khan airbase was effectively hit

RETALIATION AND RESTRAINT: TIGHTROPE AFTER PAHALGAM

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps; Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir

SOURAV ROY

THE thrill of analysing military situations lies in the speed of change and how badly one can get surprised by the sheer dynamism of situations. The racy narrative of the developments over the last four or five days, ending with the ceasefire and also the breaches, made for much scope for analysis. Yet, prudence demands that any assessment of the current Indo-Pakistan scenario commence with the trigger that started it all: Pahalgam.

It was India's collective conscience which demanded from the government retribution of a proportion that would hurt the masters of the proxies that have waged war on India for the last 36 years. It was a demand also to convey India's political will and full strategic intent to avenge every misadventure they would undertake. Although immediacy of response was the emotive demand, the government sensibly gave itself a window sufficient to plan, wargame, gain confirmatory intelligence and build a credible deception.

The decisions of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) were in the non-military domain, correctly so, allowing the Armed Forces the space they needed. It also transpired that a credible but low-key deception plan was also progressively adopted. Even the last man on the streets of India knew that an Indian response was imminent. Yet, significantly, no one could predict when this could happen. Analysts like me gave a time window of even two to three months to keep Pakistan on tenterhooks about the deployment of its reserve formations on the ground, thus incurring a heavy economic penalty.

In a nation that is yet seeking the 24th loan from the IMF to service its previous loans from other sources, such expenditure is debilitating, as are no doubt the various military actions it is involved in. The 'wait and starve' strategy, although executed for just a fortnight, gained much credibility and helped achieve some surprise.

Fourteen days after the Pahalgam attack, India struck and this time all along a 700-kilometre frontage, from Bahawalpur to Muzaffarabad, 24 state-of-the-art missiles with autonomous loiter munitions rained down on nine locations in 25 minutes on the night of May 6/7.

The escalation way above Balakot involved three things. First, it was Pakistan's heartland in Punjab, which was hit with high-profile targets such as Bahawalpur, Muridke and Sialkot, all bearing the most significant parts of Pakistan's Jihadi-terrorist infrastructure. The same has been instrumental in ideologically motivating, headquartering, training, and even launching terrorists against India for the better part of 36 years.

Second, all these locations are close to some of the most important garrisons and cantonments which house the Pakistan Army, implying that these too are in the crosshairs of India's transformational missile capability and could be effectively targeted with precision, with little or no collateral damage.

Third was the political will and the complete civil-military fusion on display on the Indian side with a new-found confidence in strategic communication. The balancing act was well choreographed and decisive but calibrated.

It was more important to take stock of the situation after delivery of the initial package, which was the first response to an escalation Pakistan had already conducted through the Pahalgam attack. What needed to be remembered was that the comparatively low intensity exchanges, well short of war, could be managed at that level if the civilian government in Pakistan was in control. However, as we all know, it is the Pakistan Army which is in command of that nation's foreign and strategic policy; it has always been so ever since we can remember.

In the tenure of the previous Pakistan Army Chief, General Qamar Bajwa, one may have expected pragmatism regarding escalation. His successor, General Asim Munir, is not from that mould. He is a deeply ideologically oriented military leader whose reputation has often been dented right through his over two-year tenure. He is identified as one from whom we can expect the Musharraf approach—decisions based on irrationality more than military logic. Due to the above reasons, after the demonstration of India's technological prowess with precision targeting, we may not have expected a quiet Pakistani response to play just sufficiently to the street and then pull back. We must remember that Pakistan's Army reserves had already been deployed, at least in J&K, for sure.

Also, in the recent past, Pakistan has been in the process of refurbishing its artillery ammunition reserves, which were sold in bulk to Ukraine at the behest of the US last year, to secure an IMF loan. Decision makers in Pakistan needed to realise that they could take the situation to a much higher rung of escalation by their further response. They would then have no control over India's next response cycle, and the cost could well be a comprehensive collapse. Yet, while choosing to adopt the escalation on two continuous nights, Pakistan banked on India not upping the ante beyond.

Mercifully, it was a drone and missile conflict, along with Pakistani artillery shelling of the villages in Poonch, Rajouri and Uri. If the ceasefire, reputed to have been pressured by the US at the IMF meeting, had not been arrived at, India may have reached the level of a much more unpredictable cycle of escalation, employing maritime and ground forces. Pakistan's ability to resist the initial forays would have undoubtedly taken this to a much higher level.

There are several dangers of Pakistani miscalculation. The breaches of the ceasefire within a few hours of it coming into effect reveal that lessons are far from learnt. Pakistan must know that US intervention came, if at all, perhaps because it sensed that Pakistan was going to be hugely decimated, especially when its Nur Khan airbase was effectively hit.

The moral ascendancy gained by India through its very calibrated actions ensured that its international reputation of being an upholder of human rights was retained, if not enhanced. Pakistan, on the other hand, brought international disgrace on itself through the targeting of civilian villages and prayer houses of innocents in the same manner as the terrorist action in Pahalgam. I strongly suggest to the Government of India to declare May 10 as 'Retribution against Terrorism' Day. Let it be an internationally recognised calendar date, never to be forgotten.

(Views are personal)
(atahasnain@gmail.com)

A MANGO MIRACLE AND BIRTH OF INDIA'S FIRST WOMAN SAINT

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WITH 'Nari Shakti' powerfully messaged by the Armed Forces, I recalled the first-known woman saint of India and how Mahadev repeatedly took her side. She was Karaikkal Ammaiyar from the 6th century.

Her name means 'Respected Old Lady of Karaikkal' in Tamil. Her life was chronicled in the 12th century in a book on the 63 Nayanmar, or Tamil Shaiva saints, called *Periya Puranam*. She invented a genre of devotional poetry called the *andhadi*. 'Anth' means 'the end' and 'adi', 'the beginning', in Sanskrit, Tamil, and several Indian languages. In this poetic form, a line's last word becomes the next line's first word. Several notable Tamil poets used the *andhadi* with vigour and beauty. So, she also contributed significantly to Indian literature.

Born as Punitavati, the only child of a wealthy merchant, Dhanadattan, in Karaikkal, she was absorbed in Shiva from childhood. She sang songs about him, regularly visited his temple, and was delighted to serve Shaiva mendicants food.

Her parents got her married to Paramadattan, the son of a prosperous merchant from Nagapattinam. Paramadattan was full of doubts and questions about god and the existence of divinity. He and Punitavati were from two ideological extremes. Punitavati's parents persuaded Paramadattan to settle in Karaikkal. Paramadattan went to conduct business every day in his new shop while Punitavati cooked and kept the house.

One morning, one of Paramadattan's friends sent him two fine, ripe mangoes, which he forwarded to Punitavati. While cooking lunch, she heard a hungry mendicant's call and fed him rice and one of the mangoes.

When Paramadattan came home, Punitavati served him the remaining mango, which he enjoyed immensely and asked for the second one. This demand terrified Punitavati, who did not dare admit she had given it to a religious mendicant.

She panicked and ran away to the puja room to pray to Shiva to save her from censure. This is where the legend takes over. When Punitavati wept piteously to Shiva, lo and behold, a mango appeared miraculously in her hand. She took it to Paramadattan. But he found the second mango far superior to the first. He asked his wife how this was possible, and she had to tell him the truth. Of course, Paramadattan did not believe her. "Prove it. Go ask your god for another mango," he said angrily.

Punitavati ran back to the puja room, and Paramadattan followed. Shiva favoured his distraught devotee. Another mango manifested and vanished the moment Paramadattan touched it.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Devastated by her husband's abandonment, Punitavati prayed to Shiva to transform her into an old woman. Shiva granted her wish, and she became a hag, liberated from earthly beauty and relationships. This transformation marked her spiritual rebirth and the start of her journey as a saint

Stunned, Paramadattan left for his shop to think things over. "She is capable of receiving divine miracles," he thought agitatedly. "But I am an ordinary mortal. How can I look at her as my wife now? She is far above me. I can never live normally with her again."

Paramadattan ran from Karaikkal to Madurai, where he started a new life. He sent a message to his father-in-law, claiming he was going on a long trading expedition. In Madurai, he settled down and married Bhagyavati, the daughter of a trading partner. They had a daughter. He named their daughter 'Punitavati' out of respect for his first wife, now seeing her as his family goddess.

Meanwhile, the abandoned 'goddess' pined for her lost husband. Seven lonely years passed without any word. Her parents were supportive but could not console her.

One terrible morning, a family friend brought the news that Paramadattan was married in Madurai and had a daughter. Punitavati, shocked, begged her parents to take her to Madurai. There, they found Paramadattan with his wife and daughter, who all fell at her feet. Paramadattan explained his actions and begged for forgiveness. Punitavati's loyal heart shattered.

She stumbled to Shiva's sanctum nearby. "Lord, I have loved you since childhood," she cried. "You have twice blessed me with your grace. My youth and beauty are useless now. Turn me into an old hag whom no man will look at. Let me spend the rest of my life at your temples."

Immediately, she transformed into a hideous old hag and cried out in joy. Everyone was frightened by how easily Shiva granted her wishes. She left her parents and began wandering from town to town.

Her joy in her liberation found expression in poetry in temple courtyards, in the form of the *andhadi*. People listened, marvelled at the new literary form, and wrote down her songs. Stripped of her looks and earthly ties, Punitavati felt like a free-floating particle.

One day, Shiva asked if she had another wish. She boldly asked to see him and Parvati dance. To her wonder, they appeared, smiling, and danced gloriously. Time lost all meaning. Falling at their feet, Punitavati vanished forever, but her name and songs remain loved to this day.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Remain vigilant

Ref: *Ceasefire: Pak violates it with drones, intrusion* (May 11). While the India-Pak ceasefire following Operation Sindoor offers hope for peace, there is little room for complacency. Pakistan's sudden drone attacks in J&K and Rajasthan post-truce highlight ongoing risks. Dialogue must continue, but India cannot—and will not—lower its guard.
Niranjan Sahoo, Bhubaneswar

Address concerns

Ref: *Digital lynching torches India's soul* (May 11). We must develop algorithms capable of detecting trolls. Digital platforms offer numerous advantages—global reach, cost-effectiveness, and enhanced communication—but they are not without challenges. However, concerns around privacy, addiction, propaganda, and misinformation persist.
Ravi Nair, Kollengode

Beijing's choice

Ref: *Chinese checkers in a failed state of false leaders* (May 11). If China continues to support the unstable state of Pakistan, it risks entering a volatile danger zone. Should Pakistan collapse, China stands to lose $29 billion and face a setback to its expansionist ambitions. India, meanwhile, is prepared to counter both threats strategically.
Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Justice served

Ref: *Bahawalpur: A chilling echo 23 years later* (May 11). By destroying Jaish-e-Mohammed camps and eliminating its leader Abdul Rauf Azhar, Operation Sindoor delivered a strong message to Bahawalpur's terror network. Azhar symbolised state-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Misplaced priorities

Ref: *Oppn seeks all party meet, House session* (May 11). The same Congress that once lacked resolve against terrorism now questions national strength. It previously cited fund shortages for defence upgrades. Under Modi, India strikes with conviction. Congress's sudden calls for all-party meetings reflect misplaced priorities and growing irrelevance in today's geopolitical climate.
C M Umanath, Calicut

Hirakud sanctuary

Ref: *Hirakud islands abuzz with nesting migratory birds* (May 11). The 26 islands of the Hirakud Wetland Ramsar site provide a vital sanctuary for millions of birds to breed and raise chicks. Designated as 'No-Go' zones, they attract numerous species, including endangered ones.
Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Nitish Kumar @NitishKumar
Salute to BSF Sub Inspector Mohammad Imtiaz Ji, a resident of Saran district of Bihar, who was martyred in firing by Pakistan Army in R.S. Pura sector of Jammu.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The 'defense-security' has become an even more serious issue. Politicians are requested to please not make it a photo background or selfie point.

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Sad & sickening to see Godi media get away with brazenly peddling fake news while respected genuine reporting by @thewire_in is blocked. Hope you seek legal remedy.

PAHALGAM ATTACK TO 'OP SINDOOR' TO CEASEFIRE

APRIL 22: PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

- Terrorists affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), launched a brutal attack at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir
- 26 tourists were killed, including 25 Indians and one Nepali. Several others were injured
- TRF initially claimed responsibility but later denied it. Indian authorities confirmed established Pakistan links to the attack

APRIL 23: DIPLOMATIC FALLOUT

India held a Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting chaired by PM Modi

KEY DECISIONS

- Closure of Attari Integrated Check Post
- Revocation of SAARC visa exemption for Pakistani citizens
- Expulsion of Pakistani military attachés
- Reduction in diplomatic staff at both High Commissions (from 55 to 30)
- Short-term visas revoked
- In response, Pakistan began ceasefire violations along the LoC

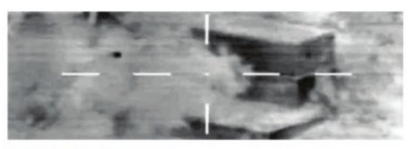
It Could be anyone
TERRORIST DON'T HAVE RELIGION.
We condemn such barbaric attack.
SORRY SISTER WE HAVE NO ANSWER OF YOUR QUESTIONS? BUT CAN FEEL YOUR PAIN...
MURDER OF HUMANITY

APRIL 24: PAKISTAN RESPONDS

- Suspended the 1972 Simla Agreement
- Closed its airspace to Indian flights
- Shut down the Wagah trade route
- Expelled Indian military diplomats
- Revoked SAARC visa exemption for Indian nationals

APRIL 25 – MAY 6: RISING TENSIONS AND MILITARY READINESS

- Continuous ceasefire violations by Pakistan across the LoC
- **April 25**: Indian government held an all-party meeting to brief on developments
- **April 29**: PM Modi chaired a high-level meeting with Defence Minister, CDS, and service chiefs; full operational freedom granted
- **April 30**: India closed its airspace to Pakistani flights
- **May 2**: India banned imports from Pak
- **May 3**: India banned entry of Pakistan-flagged vessels into its waters and ports



MAY 7 (1:04 AM): OP SINDOOR LAUNCHED

- A precision strike by Army targeting 9 terror camps in Pak's Punjab and PoK
- Targets camps of JeM, LeT, and Hizbul
- Over 100 terrorists neutralised, including family members of Masood Azhar and the mastermind of the IC814 hijacking
- Foreign Secretary Misri clarified the strikes avoided direct military targets and were acts of self-defence

MAY 7 (NIGHT): PAKISTAN MISSILE RETALIATION

- Pakistan fired 15 missiles, 8 targeting locations in J&K
- Indian air defences intercepted many; Indian drones retaliated and disabled multiple Pakistani air defence units, including sites in Lahore

MAY 8 (NIGHT): PAKISTAN'S DRONE AND ARTILLERY OFFENSIVE

- 300–400 drones (including Turkish-made Asisguard SONGARs) deployed across 36 Indian towns and cities
- Simultaneous artillery shelling along the LoC and IB
- India neutralised many drones using air defence systems and jamming technology and launched counterstrikes

MAY 9 (EARLY MORNING): INDIAN RETALIATION

- India targeted and destroyed Pakistan's HQ-9B air defence system in Lahore.
- Later, Pakistan launched a third wave of attacks with swarm drones, loitering munitions, and Fatah missiles, hitting 26 locations across India's western border
- India retaliated with massive counterstrikes, targeting Sialkot, IB posts, and LoC sectors

MAY 10 (MORNING): INDIAN AIR FORCE STRIKES

- Indian Air Force (IAF) destroyed eight Pakistani air bases, including ones in Islamabad, Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Sukkur, Rahim Yar Khan, Pasrur, Chunian, and Sialkot
- Eight more bases, including Skardu, Bolari, and Sargodha, suffered significant damage

MAY 10 (NOON–AFTERNOON): DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION AND CEASEFIRE UNDERSTANDING

- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with PM Modi, NSA Doval, and their Pakistani counterparts, urging restraint
- Pakistan's DGMO contacted India's DGMO around 3:30 pm to initiate de-escalation
- A mutual understanding of ceasefire was reached, effective from 5 pm.
- One key condition: India would not reactivate the Indus Waters Treaty

MAY 10 (EVENING): VIOLATIONS DESPITE CEASEFIRE UNDERSTANDING

- Explosions reported in Srinagar post 5 pm
- J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted that "this is no ceasefire."
- Air defence activity continued, and violations were acknowledged by Indian authorities.
- Foreign Secretary Misri clarified that the nature of the understanding was not a formal ceasefire, but an informal, non-binding military de-escalation agreement

COMPILED BY **PRABHAT SHUKLA**

INSIDER TRACK

Centre sends IAS mentor team to J&K

Given the continuing tension between India and Pakistan, the government has designated senior IAS officers as mentors for select crucial districts of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir for seamless coordination and effective governance amid the crisis. Sources said these officers, from the 1992 to 2011 batches of the AGMUT cadre, are assigned as mentors to assist the local administrations by overseeing developmental initiatives, law and order, and emergency response mechanisms. The officers include Shaleen Kabra of 1992-batch for Jammu, Shailendra Kumar of 1995-batch for Poonch, Sanjeev Verma of 2001-batch for Kathua, Vikramjit Singh of 2006-batch for Samba, Sarmad Hafeez of 2009-batch for Kupwara, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan of 2010-batch for Baramulla and Bhupinder Kumar of 2011-batch for Rajouri. This strategic deployment is seen as part of a broader preparedness effort to maintain stability and ensure seamless governance amid heightened tensions along the border with Pakistan.

A citizen, but at what cost!

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given Indian citizenship to Soheni Roy, a Bangladeshi by birth, and the wife of Pahalgam terror attack victim Bitan Adhikari, among the 26 killed at Baisaran Meadow in the April 22 massacre, officials said. Bitan Adhikari, an IT professional working in Florida, USA, was killed in front of his wife. Soheni's fate became uncertain after her husband's death, as her application for Indian citizenship based on her marriage was pending with the government for a long time, they said. The officials said Soheni Roy's Certificate of Registration of Citizenship was recently handed over to her. It mentions that she was born in Narayanganj, Bangladesh, and entered the country in January 1997. Union Minister of State for Education and Development of North Eastern Region Sukanta Majumdar shared the registration certificate on 'X', saying, "The Union Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India has granted Indian citizenship to Soheni Devi, the wife of Bitan Adhikari, who was killed in an attack by Islamic terrorists in Pahalgam, Kashmir..."

UPSC undecided over K'taka DGP

With the UPSC receiving a panel of names of senior IPS officers from the Karnataka government a couple of days back, there's every possibility of the state going in for a temporary arrangement after incumbent Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Mohan, a 1987-batch IPS officer, demits office on May 21. Sources in New Delhi said the UPSC would need some time to evaluate the names. A decision is not likely to be shared with the Karnataka government before May 21, and the state might go for a temporary DGP. As per the Civil List of IPS officers of Karnataka cadre, Mohan is scheduled to retire on April 30 when he attains the age of 60, but he has continued in office because his is a 'two-year' fixed term. He was appointed in-charge DGP on May 22, 2023, after his predecessor, Praveen Sood, moved to the Centre as CBI Director.

Mohan's appointment was confirmed on August 5, 2023. The names with the UPSC include 1992-batch IPS officer Prashant Kumar Thakur, Karnataka's DG, Fire & Emergency Services, 1993-batch IPS officer MA Saleem, DG, Criminal Investigation Department, 1993-batch IPS officer K Ramachandra, Rao, DGP & CMD of the State Police Housing & Infrastructure Development Corporation, and 1994-batch officer Pronab Mohanty, DGP, Internal Security Division (ISD) and Cyber Command. Their remaining tenures range between two and three years.

● Pahalgam terror attack mastermind TRF gets Pak support at UN body ● Cong writes to PM for special session ● 'Rules of Pak engagement changed under Modi'

India to move UNSC with fresh Pak terror evidence

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WITH the United Nations Security Council's 1267 sanction committee is scheduled to meet next week, India has decided to send a team there with the latest evidence highlighting Pakistan's complicity with terrorism and the role of The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, in Pahalgam massacre on April 22, sources said on Sunday.

The 1267 sanctions committee, also known as the ISIS and Al-Qaida sanctions committee, established under UNSC Resolution in 1999, is a key UN subsidiary body working towards combating terrorism, the sources said. It also oversees sanction measures related to individuals, entities and groups, associated with the terror organisations and ensures the implementation of sanctions pursuant to UNSC resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), they added.

India's decision has come after a ceasefire was declared amid escalation of tensions with Pakistan. Both the countries pulled back from the brink of an all-out war after India avenged Pahalgam attack by conducting 'Operation Sindoor' in which nine terror hideouts deep inside Pakistan and PoK were targeted and destroyed earlier this week.

On earlier occasions also India had engaged with the 1267 Committee to highlight the activities of Pakistan-based terrorists and seek formal recognition of their involvement in cross-border attacks, the sources said. Though several individuals have been listed as designated terrorists, some proposals have faced resistance or have been blocked, particularly by China, which holds veto power as a permanent member of the UNSC, they said.

Pakistan has been shielding TRF at the UNSC through China and had recently managed to block the mention of the terror outfit's name in a UNSC statement condemning the Pahalgam attack, the sources said, adding that this was done despite TRF claimed responsibility for the attack twice.

"It is evident that Pakistan has been following a pattern of diplomatic cover for the terror outfits," a source said.

'Pak following pattern of diplomatic cover'

Pakistan has been shielding TRF at the UNSC through China and managed to block the mention of the terror outfit's name in a UNSC statement condemning the Pahalgam attack, the sources said. This was done despite TRF claimed responsibility for the attack twice. "It is evident that Pakistan has been following a pattern of diplomatic cover for the terror outfits," a source said.

TRF emerged on the terror scene as an offshoot of the LeT after the Centre scrapped the special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution. The NIA has found TRF's involvement in planning, killings, recruiting terrorists and smuggling weapons. The agency has also found that TRF has been involved in several terror attacks, including targeted killings, grenade attacks and ambushes in Kashmir.

The sources said India will approach the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee to designate TRF as a terrorist organisation, imposing sanctions and travel bans on its members.

Meanwhile, India is now preparing a stronger and more direct response by making a strong push for putting Pakistan in the Financial Action Task Force's grey list and ensuring that aid to the country is suspended, sources said.

Govt must clarify Trump claim on ceasefire, says Pilot

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after India and Pakistan agreed for a ceasefire, Opposition leaders in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and latest developments in cross-border firing.

In his letter dated May 10, senior Congress leader and LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi reiterated the Opposition's unanimous request to convene a special session of Parliament to demonstrate the collective resolve against terrorism. "It is crucial to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and ceasefire. This will also be a chance to demonstrate our collective resolve to meet the challenges ahead," he said.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge recalled the letters written by him and Gandhi on April 28, requesting the PM to convene a special session of Parliament.

"As the LoP in the Rajya Sabha, I am writing in support of the request. I trust you will agree," the Congress chief said.

Earlier, Congress leader Sachin Pilot strongly objected attempts at internationalising the Kashmir issue. He also reiterated the party's demand for a special Parliament session and an all-party meet, asserting that the government must clarify its stand on third-party mediation after the announcement of ceasefire by US President Donald Trump, before it was announced by India and Pakistan.

The leader added that Kashmir is a bilateral issue, and no third-party mediation is acceptable and also questioned the US officials' statement that the two countries will be meeting at a neutral venue.

It is crucial to discuss Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and ceasefire. This will be a chance to demonstrate our collective resolve to meet the challenges ahead

Rahul Gandhi, LoP in Lok Sabha

Kashmir issue

Congress leader Sachin Pilot strongly objected attempts at internationalising the Kashmir issue. He also reiterated party's demand for a special Parliament session, asserting that the govt must clarify its stand on ceasefire announcement.

Ceasefire is not an agreement, but an understanding: BJP

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

HAILING the success of Operation Sindoor as "a new chapter in history", the BJP on Sunday shared a cryptic message stating that the ceasefire is not an "agreement but an understanding". Taking to his 'X' handle, BJP national general secretary BL Santhosh, said, "This pause is an understanding not agreement" – Govt.

Political experts interpreted this one-line message – quoting the government – as an indication that India is still determined to continue with Operation Sindoor if any kind of misadventure is attempted from the other side of the border.

BJP national head of IT department, Amit Malviya, also echoed the same cryptic message – "This pause is an UNDERSTANDING, it is not an AGREMEENT." The party also maintained its assertion that India has rewritten the rules of its engagement with Pakistan under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, responding to a Congress leader's post.

The BJP further alleged that the Indira Gandhi-led government released more than 90,000 prisoners of war without securing any strategic advantage after the 1971 war.

The reaction came in the wake of the Congress demanding answers from the government on whether it had accepted third-party mediation on Kashmir, following announcements made by the US on behalf of India and Pakistan. The Congress also called for an immediate special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and latest developments in cross-border firing.

BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said Pakistan "pleaded for an understanding" after suffering "catastrophic losses".

In just 72 hours, under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has rewritten the rules of engagement with Pakistan

Pradeep Bhandari, BJP national spokesperson

Shout-out to India

Applauding India's success, BJP IT dept head Amit Malviya said that unlike in 1971, Pakistan today possesses nuclear weapons. Yet, India remains perhaps the only country to have struck deep and repeatedly within territory of a nuclear-armed state.

DIRE WARNING

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann has warned that the BJP and the Bhakra Beas Management Board will be held responsible if "violence" breaks out as they continue to send officials to the Nangal Dam.

2 BOYS KILLED AS WALL COLLAPSES IN UP

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	36	28	Mumbai	32	27
Bhopal	36	26	Panaji	35	29
Jaipur	37	28	Patna	38	29
Amritsar	36	23	Lucknow	38	28
Chennai	36	29	Port Blair	30	26
Kolkata	38	29	Imphal	28	21
Srinagar	18	09	Chandigarh	37	23

■ Many condemn attack on foreign secy and his daughter over ceasefire ■ Many terrorists, besides Masood's kin, killed in Operation Sindoor

Trolls target Misri & kin, FS locks social media a/c

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE vicious trolling of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his daughter on social media platform X forced him to lock access to his handle by the public. On the positive side, it has garnered enormous support from politicians across the spectrum and professionals who took to the same platform to laud the top diplomat and condemn the trolls.

Misri caught the nation's attention when he led the media briefing on May 7 after 'Operation Sindoor' that was beamed live on social media platforms. The officer repeatedly addressed the media later and again on Saturday confirming the ceasefire between the two nations and its violation by Pakistan. The co-ordinated trolling began after that.

Countless social media users who were openly calling for a major retaliation against Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack were disappointed with the ceasefire agreement and vented their ire on him and his daughter Didon. A law student, Didon had worked for the cause of Rohingya refugees.

Among the trolls was JayR-Nair who posted, "What is most shocking is when you realise what his daughter does. She gave legal assistance to Rohingyas, now in London." AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi posted, "Mr Vikram Misri is a decent and an honest hard working diplomat working tirelessly for our nation. Our civil servants work under the Executive; this must be remembered & they shouldn't be blamed for the decisions taken by The Executive /or any Political leadership running Watan E Aziz."

Salman Aneez Soz, Congress leader, was livid in his comment: "A Kashmiri has done India proud. No amount of trolling can diminish his service to the country. If you can't say thank you, learn to shut up." AICC general secretary Sachin Pilot said, "I condemn the social media trolling directed at family of the Foreign Secretary. It's unacceptable to target the professional diplomats and civil servants – those who work dedicatedly to serve the nation."

Mohammed Zubair, Founder of Alt News, said, "First they went after Himanshi Narwal, the wife of the naval officer, Vinay Narwal. And now the same trolls are going after the Foreign Secretary of India, Vikram Misri and his daughter. Abusing and sharing her mobile number.

Vir Das, comedian, said, "Vikram Misri was amazing, so were Colonel Sophiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Wyomika Singh. Anyone who thinks otherwise is a fool." An outspoken voice on social media, Vir Sanghvi called such trolls "human garbage."

Markaz Taiba in-charge among those neutralised

One among the five designated terrorists neutralised in the air strike was LeT member Mudassar Khadian Khas, sources say. He was in charge of Markaz Taiba at Muridke. Wreaths were laid at the funeral of the deceased LeT operatives on behalf of Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir and Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz.

Wreaths laid on behalf of Pak Army chief

As per sources, wreaths were laid at his funeral along with other deceased LeT operatives on behalf of Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, as the prayer event was held at a government school. The funeral was led by Hafiz Abdul Rauf of LeT, a designated global terrorist.

Top Pakistan army officers attended terrorists' funeral

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

BESIDES the kin of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar including his brother Rauf Azhar, a few more hardcore terrorists affiliated to terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and JeM were killed in Indian strikes in Pakistan under 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7, Indian agencies have confirmed.

Sources in the agencies said, they have a verifiable input that one among the five designated terrorists, who were neutralised in the air strike, was LeT member Mudassar Khadian Khas, also known as Abu Jundal. He was in charge of Markaz Taiba at Muridke in Narowal district of Pakistan.

The sources said the wreaths were laid at his funeral along with other deceased LeT operatives on behalf of Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, as the prayer event was held at a government school. The funeral event was led by Hafiz Abdul Rauf of LeT, a designated global terrorist and a few of the Pakistan Army and the civil administration brass including a serving Lieutenant General and the Inspector General of Punjab Police attended the event, the sources said.

Among the serving Pakistan Army officers, who attended the funeral included Lt General Fayyaz Husai Shah, the Corps Commander of IV Corps, Lahore, Major General Rao Imran Sartaj, the GoC 11 Infantry Division, Lahore, Brigadier Mohd Furqan Shabbir, the Commander of 15 HyMech Brigade, Lahore, sources said, adding that among the civil administration were Dr Usman Anwar, Inspector General of Police, Punjab (Pak) and Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bherth, a Member of Provincial Assembly of Punjab.

Meanwhile, among the others, who have been neutralised, include Hafiz Muhammad Jameel, the elder brother-in-law of JeM founder Maulana Masood Azhar. He was in charge of Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur, which was hit in the Indian air strike, the sources said, adding that he was actively involved in radicalising youth and fundraising for the terror outfit. Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, also known as Ustad Ji, Mohd Salim, and Ghosi Sahab, was another Azhar's brother-in-law who was killed. Affiliated with JeM, he, along with Rauf Azhar, was wanted in the IC-814 hijacking case and linked to multiple terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Khalid, alias Abu Akasha, of LeT, and Mohammad Hassan Khan of JeM were also killed in the operation.

EASTERN FRONT

'Creation of B'desh hailed as diplomatic triumph, but history tells different story'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

ASSAM Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that though the creation of Bangladesh is often hailed as a diplomatic triumph, history tells a different story.

He stated that India's decisive and historic military victory in 1971 broke Pakistan in two and gave birth to Bangladesh. "While our soldiers delivered a stunning battlefield success, India's political leadership failed to secure lasting strategic gains," he posted on X. Sarma also remarked that India supported a secular Bangladesh, but by 1988, Islam had been declared the state religion. Today, "political Islam" thrives in Dhaka, undermining the very values India fought to protect, he said.

Speaking on the persecution of Hindus, the Assam Chief Minister said, "Hindus, once 20% of Bangladesh's population, have dwindled to under 8%. Systematic discrimination and violence remain a shameful reality that India has largely ignored." He added that despite military dominance, India failed to resolve the vulnerability of the Siliguri Corridor. A secure land corridor through northern Bangladesh could have integrated the Northeast, but no such arrangement was ever pursued.

"No agreement mandated the return of illegal Bangladeshi migrants. As a result, Assam, Bengal, and the Northeast face unchecked demographic change, sparking social unrest and political instability," Sarma stated. He further observed that India did not secure access to the strategic Chittagong Port and, five decades later, the Northeast remains landlocked despite having birthed a nation through blood and sacrifice.

C'garh STF to identify B'deshi nationals soon

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

A special task force (STF) will be constituted in every district of Chhattisgarh to identity and initiate action against Bangladeshi infiltrators and other illegal immigrants, state home minister Vijay Sharma said.

"This campaign is crucial for national security as they can pose serious challenge s. There will also be action against those who engage in making forged documents for illegal immigrants," said Sharma.

The state police headquarters (PHQ) has issued instructions to all district SPs to form STFs and intensify the identification of Bangladeshi infiltrators and illegal immigrants in the state. The SPs have been asked to take steps to deport them. "Action will be taken against the illegal immigrants in accordance with the legal process," the directive said.

The contractors, businessmen of tents or scrap dealers who hire people or labourers from outside without the valid documents will also face actions. They will be mandatorily required to ensure document verification of their labour force.

MHA reviews security on India-B'desh border amid action against Hasina party

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

EVEN as the Border Security Force (BSF) continues to remain engaged on the western flank amid military tensions with Pakistan, the top officials of the force on Sunday reviewed the operational preparedness and prevailing security scenario along the Indo-Bangladesh border in parts of Assam and West Bengal frontiers with a focus on challenges posed by fast changing political situation in Bangladesh, officials said.

The officials said that Additional Director General (ADG) of the force's eastern command, Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, has been visiting since Friday to areas under Guwahati Frontier, in Dhubri district of Assam and Cooch Behar of neighbouring West Bengal along the International Border (IB) with Bangladesh.

According to officials here, during his visits to sector headquarters Gopalpur, Cooch Behar and Dhubri, the AGG was briefed by Inspector General of Guwahati Frontier Sukhdev Raj, along with the field commanders.

"The briefing focused on the current security challenges posed by unrest in Bangladesh, evolving situation on the Indo-Pakistan Border and the necessary measures taken to combat these issues," a senior BSF official said.

Meanwhile, a number of drone movements have been noticed along the frontier areas for the past one week. One such UAV was spotted by the BSF in Murshidabad district of West Bengal on Saturday night near the sensitive areas of the borders.

The discovery was made in the Durgapur-Barojdihi village, which is more than 2,000 metres inside the Indian territory from the border.

However, BSF officials claimed that the recovered drone was found to be a consumer-grade device rather than something with more sophisticated or potentially malicious applications.

"The drone recovered in Murshidabad is like the one commonly used by photographers to cover events with limited capabilities," said a BSF official, Notably, following days of street protests led by the student-led National Citizen Party, which emerged from last year's uprising that toppled former PM Sheikh Hasina, the interim government in Bangladesh banned all activities of the Awami League.

The deliberations between AGG and IG highlighted strategies to prevent any form of infiltration and to control trans-border crimes, ensuring the safety and security of the border areas — Senior BSF officer

15-yr-old brave J'khand girl runs away from home to avoid child marriage

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

A 15-year-old girl from Jharkhand's Hazaribagh ran away from her home to avoid being forced into marriage. She was found at Ranchi Railway Station while attempting to board a train to an unknown destination. Fortunately, a team from Nanhe Farishte rescued her and handed her over to the Child Helpline.

Nanhe Farishte, a special unit launched in May 2018 across Indian Railways, was established to ensure the safety of vulnerable children travelling by train.

According to RPF Divisional Security Commissioner Pawan Kumar, the girl was spotted sitting alone on platform number one during a routine inspection on Friday.

"She was questioned on the basis of suspicion and provided full details including her name, her mother's name, and her address," Kumar said.

"After collecting all the necessary information, she revealed that she had run away from home because her parents opposed her wish to study and were planning to marry her off," he added. Finding no other option, she decided to flee.

Following proper interrogation and completion of formalities, the girl was handed over to the Child Welfare Committee for appropriate further action.

"Although her parents arrived to take her home, the matter was referred to the Child Welfare Committee to ensure they could not marry her off until she turns 18, as they are required to sign a legal bond to that effect," said RPF Inspector Sunita Panna, who led the Nanhe Farishte team that rescued the girl.

Notably, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a dedicated operation called Nanhe Farishte to rescue children in need of care and protection across various zones of Indian Railways.

Since its inception in 2018 up to May 2024, the RPF has rescued over 84,000 children found at risk at railway stations and onboard trains, thereby preventing them from falling into harm's way.

Handed over to child welfare panel

The girl was handed over to the Child Welfare Committee for appropriate further action Although her parents arrived to take her home, the matter was referred to the Child Welfare Committee to ensure they could not marry her off until she turns 18, as they are required to sign a legal bond to that effect

BJP on driver's seat in Assam panchayat polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance continued to maintain a strong lead in the Assam panchayat elections. When last reports on counting came in, the NDA either won or was leading in 263 Zila Parishad seats, followed by Congress in 46 and AIUDF in 12.

NDA either won or was leading in 603 Anchalik Panchayat seats, followed by Congress 61 and AIUDF six.

The elections were held in 397 Zilla Parishad and 2,192 Anchalik Panchayat seats.

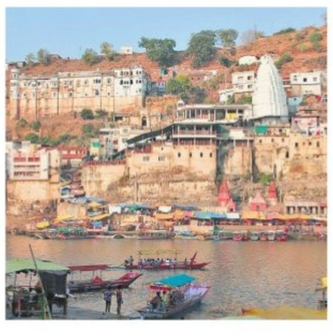
The polls were held in two phases on May 2 and 7 in 27 districts. Altogether 2,912 candidates had earlier won uncontested. There were also 2,567 Gram Panchayat wards but they were contested without party affiliations.

After mega water project, MP & Maha plan to set up spiritual tourism circuit

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AFTER the signing of a historic MoU for the world's largest groundwater recharge, the Tapti Basin Mega Recharge project, neighbouring states Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have identified more potential areas of inter-state cooperation, including a spiritual tourism circuit connecting the jyotirlingas in the two states.

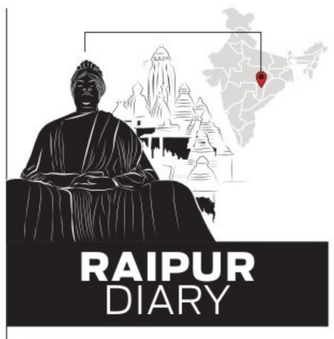
At the meeting with his Maharashtra counterpart on Saturday, Devendra Fadnavis, the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav proposed the setting up of a religious tourism circuit by connecting the two Jyotirlingas of his state—Shri Mahakaleshwar and Shri Omkareshwar—with Maharashtra's Jyotirlingas—Shri Trimbakeshwar, Shri Bhimashankar, and Shri Grishneshwar.



These pilgrimage sites are major centres of faith for people of both states and the country. "Both, MP and Maharashtra will work together across multiple sectors, including industry, cultural and spiritual traditions, tourism, and horticulture. They will jointly preserve their shared cultural heritage and increase activities of mutual cooperation in these areas," Yadav told journalists.

CM Yadav further mentioned that a significant volume of pharmaceuticals, textiles, and agricultural products from Madhya Pradesh is exported through various ports in Maharashtra. "The two states will consider establishing a dedicated export facilitation cell at Maharashtra's ports. Building a dedicated freight corridor between Jabalpur and Nagpur would result in significant savings in cost, time, and freight charges for goods transportation in Central India."

While stating that the Maratha rule had deep links with MP, Yadav said that the histories of valiant warriors like Bajirao Peshwa, the Holkars, Shindes (Scindias), Tatya Tope, Rani Lakshmi Bai, and Appaji Bhonsle will be compiled and digitized as part of a historical preservation effort. "As part of this initiative, both states can collaborate in preserving and publishing manuscripts written in the Modi script."



EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

State poised to emerge as a textile hub soon

The Chhattisgarh government has signed a MoU with the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), marking a major step towards transforming the state into a centre for textile and apparel manufacturing. During the recent CMAI FAB show in Mumbai, CM Vishnu Deo Sai engaged with the investors and industrialists, inviting them to invest in the state. He presented the state's ambitious vision for the textile sector. The government is emphasising that the state is now not just focused on ease of doing business, but speed of doing business. Additionally, the state cabinet has already approved NIFT campus in Nava Raipur. Soon, a CMAI Textile and Apparel facilitation centre too will be set up.

India's 1st hydrogen fuel truck for mining logistics

The Adani Enterprises has deployed the country's first hydrogen fuel cell truck to promote cleaner transportation for mining logistics at the state government's coal block. Each truck, equipped with smart technology and three hydrogen tanks, can carry up to 40 tons of cargo over a distance of 200 km. CM Vishnu Deo Sai flagged off the first truck that will be used to transport coal from the Gare Pelma III Block in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district to the state's power plant. Hydrogen, the most abundant element, produces no harmful emissions. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles match diesel trucks in range and load capacity but emit only water vapour and warm air.

Waqf Board notices to 400 wrongdoers

Chhattisgarh State Waqf Board has served notices to people who have illegally taken possession of its properties, as well as those who have accrued unpaid rents for leased properties. Over 400 people have been served notices across the state on properties worth over ₹500 crore, as the Board Chairman, Salim Raj, has directed the concerned district collectors and the superintendents of police to cancel all registrations that the Board asserts have been sold illegally. Early this month, a team from the ministry of minority affairs visited Chhattisgarh to inspect the Waqf properties and its existing status. As per the board, the state possesses Waqf properties worth more than ₹5,000 crore.

Need ceasefire first, talks only later, says Zelenskyy

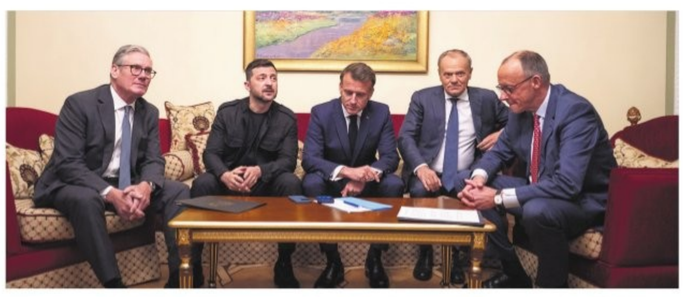
This comes after Putin rejected ceasefire, proposed talks in Istanbul

KYIV

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday welcomed Russia's offer for direct peace talks, but insisted there must be a full, temporary ceasefire in place before negotiations can start. Zelenskyy, writing on X, said it was a "positive sign that the Russians have finally begun to consider ending the war" and said that "the entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time."

He added, however, that "the very first step in truly ending any war is a ceasefire," in a reference to his proposal to start a 30-day unconditional truce on Monday.

"There is no point in continuing the killing even for a single day. We expect Russia to confirm a ceasefire — full, lasting, and reliable — starting tomorrow, May 12th, and Ukraine is ready to meet," Zelenskyy said. Russian President Vladimir Putin in remarks to the media overnight effectively rejected that ceasefire offer and proposed restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on Thursday instead "without preconditions." He said a ceasefire might be agreed on during the negotiations.



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, French President Emmanuel Macron, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz make a call to Donald Trump from Kyiv, Ukraine | AP

Putin's counter-offer came after leaders from four major European countries threatened to ratchet up pressure on Moscow if it does not accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine.

French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Saturday and issued a coordinated call for the truce starting Monday. The plan has received backing from both the European Union and U.S. President Donald Trump.

In a social media post several hours after Putin's overnight remarks about peace talks, Trump said it was "a potentially great day for Russia and Ukraine!"

"I will continue to work with both sides to make sure that it happens. The USA wants to focus, instead, on Rebuilding and Trade. A BIG week upcoming!" he added. Macron said Sunday that Putin's offer of direct negotiations with Ukraine is "a first step, but not enough," signaling continued Western skepticism toward Moscow's intentions.

"An unconditional ceasefire is not preceded by negotiations," Macron told reporters at the Polish-Ukrainian border, according to French media.

Macron also warned that Putin is "looking for a way out, but he still wants to buy time." *AP*

Pope Leo XIV calls for peace in Ukraine and Gaza, offers wishes on Mother's Day

VATICAN CITY

POPE Leo XIV called for a genuine and just peace in Ukraine and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, in his first Sunday noon blessing as pontiff that featured some symbolic gestures suggesting a message of unity in a polarized Catholic Church.

"I, too, address the world's great powers by repeating the ever-present call 'never again war,'" Leo said from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica to an estimated 100,000 people below.

It was the first time that Leo had returned to the loggia since he first appeared to the world on Thursday evening following his remarkable election as pope, the first from the United States. Then, too, he delivered a message of peace.

Pope Leo XIV appears at the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica for his first Sunday blessing after his election, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican | AP

Leo was picking up the papal tradition of offering a Sunday blessing at noon, but with some twists. Whereas his predecessors delivered the greeting from the studio window of the Apostolic Palace, off to the side of the piazza, Leo went to the very center of the square and the heart of the church.

Part of that was logistics: He didn't have access to the papal apartments in the palace until later Sunday, when they were unsealed for the first time since Pope Francis' death.

Leo also offered a novelty by singing the Regina Caeli prayer, a Latin prayer said during the Easter season which recent popes would usually just recite and harked back to the old Latin Mass of the past.

Traditionalists and conservatives, many of whom felt alienated by Pope Francis' reforms and loose liturgical style, have been looking for gestures hinting at Leo's priorities.

Some have expressed cautious optimism at the very least with a return to a traditional style that Leo exhibited on Thursday night, when he emerged for the first time wearing the formal red cape of the papacy that Francis had eschewed. *AP*

Passenger bus skids off cliff in Sri Lanka; 21 dead, 35 hurt

COLOMBO: A passenger bus skidded off a cliff in Sri Lanka's tea-growing hill country on Sunday, killing 21 people and injuring 35 others, a police spokesman said. The accident occurred in the early hours of Sunday near the town of Kotmale, about 140 kilometers (86 miles) east of Colombo, the capital, in a mountainous area of central Sri Lanka, police said. Police spokesman Buddhika Manathunga said 21 people died and another 35 were being treated in hospitals. Local television showed the bus lying overturned at the bottom of a precipice while workers and others helped remove injured people from the rubble. The driver was injured and among those admitted to the hospital for treatment. At the time of the accident, nearly 50 people were traveling on the bus. The bus was operated by a state-run bus company, police said. AP

Dutch-Suriname team digitises 1,00,000 Jewish documents

AMSTERDAM

THE fire that caused significant damage in April to historic buildings in Suriname's capital city was not the only threat facing the nearby Neveh Shalom Synagogue.

As firefighters battled to save the historic city center of Paramaribo — a UNESCO World Heritage site — the synagogue's volunteers were busy scanning thousands of archival documents in an effort to preserve the history of the thousands of Jews who have called the Surinamese capital home since the 1700s. The blaze was contained before reaching the synagogue, but at the mercy of other threats, including the tropical climate, insects and time, it was a reminder of how fragile the 100,000 historic documents, kept on pages stored in filing cabinets for decades, were and how vital the preservation project was.

The operation to digitize the birth records, land sales and correspondence has been overseen by Dutch academic Rosa de Jong, who had used the archive as part of a PhD study on how Jewish refugees fled the horrors of World War II to the Caribbean, including the tiny South American country of Suriname. "I felt that my work comes with an obligation to preserve the past that I'm building my career on," De Jong told The Associated Press. *AP*

Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip kill 13, mostly women and children

DEIR AL-BALAH

ISRAELI strikes overnight and into Sunday killed 13 people in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children, according to local health officials.

Two of the strikes hit tents in the southern city of Khan Younis, each killing two children and their parents, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Another five people were killed in strikes elsewhere, according to hospitals.

Man holds body of his niece killed in an overnight Israeli airstrike | AP

The Israeli military says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames Hamas for civilian deaths in the 19-month-old war because the militants are embedded in densely populated areas. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the latest strikes. Israel has sealed Gaza off from all imports, including food, medicine and emergency shelter, for over 10 weeks in what it says is a pressure tactic aimed at forcing Hamas to release hostages. Israel resumed its offensive in March, shattering a ceasefire that had facilitated the release of more than 30 hostages.

The UN and aid groups say food and other supplies are running low and hunger is widespread. Children carrying empty bottles raced after a water tanker in a devastated area of northern Gaza on Sunday. Residents of the built-up Shati refugee camp said the water was brought by a charity from elsewhere in Gaza. Without it, they rely on wells that are salty and often polluted.

"I am forced to drink salty water, I have no choice," said Mahmoud Radwan. *AP*

US and China agree to establish 'consultation mechanism' on trade

GENEVA

TARIFF TRACKER

The lead US negotiator in trade talks with China cited "a great deal of productivity" in resolving differences between the world's two leading economic powers after officials wrapped two days of bargaining in Switzerland following President Donald Trump's steep tariffs and Beijing's retaliation.

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng hailed what he called "important progress" in trade talks with the United States, at the end of a weekend of closed-door discussions in Switzerland. Speaking to reporters in Geneva, He said the atmosphere of the talks with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer had been candid, in-depth, and substantive, echoing similar language from the US delegation earlier in the day.

He Lifeng said that Beijing and Washington had agreed during weekend talks in Geneva to create a "consultation mechanism", as they strive to de-escalate trade tensions.

The two countries will put out a joint statement on the talks on Monday, May 12, He said. China's international trade representative Li Chenggang explained the mechanism would enable "regular and irregular communications related to trade and commercial issues". US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday that there was "substantial progress" in the weekend sessions but offered scant details on exactly what negotiations entailed.

He said details would come at a briefing the following day. Bessent was more cautious in assessing the state of play than was his partner, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. "It's important to understand how quickly we were able to come to agreement, which reflects that perhaps the differences were not so large as far as maybe thought," said Greer, who did not say what deal he was referring to. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. Ambarisha .K** S/o Kempanna R/a. Huskur Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk.

We hereby declare that my client has Lost the below mentioned Original Sale deed Near T.B.Circle, Opposite to APMC Market gate, Doddaballapura Town on 11th May 2025

The Document of title Original Sale deeds with respect to Site No.2 measuring {(90+70)/2X28} feet, This above Original Title Deeds (Mother Deed) bearing Doc No.3663/1995-96 dated 30/08/1997 registered in the office of the SRO, Doddaballapura and Further Police complaint has been lodged on 11/05/2025 in Online bearing Lost Report.No.1602038/2025 to this effect which has been duly acknowledged. The above Public Notice is now issued. Any person having claim/in possession of the said document may represent to the under signed within **07 days** failing which it will be taken that there are no claims.

A.Prashanth, Advocate
No.3755, SAMPRATHI, DESHADAPETE
Doddaballapur Town-561203.
Mob : 9886628181.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the land bearing Survey No 48/3, old Sy.No.48/2 measuring 1 acre 02 guntas situated at Byadarahalli, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, from it's Owner **Smt. Pushpa** W/o Sri. Ashwath, residing at No.247, 7th cross, SS Road, C.S.Halli, R.T. Nagar Post, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560 032. In this regard Our Client intends to get Sale Deed registered in his favour in respect of the Schedule Property with the aforesaid Owners.

Any person/s, individual/s, Bank/s, Financial Institution/s etc. has/having any manner of claim/right over the Schedule Property, should file objections, if any, in writing with necessary documents in support of their claim within **10 days** from issuance of this notice. Objections will not be entertained without documentary proof and objections if any exceeds **10 days** will not be considered/entertained.

SCHEDULE

The property land bearing Survey No 48/3, old No.48/2 measuring 1 acre 02 guntas situated at Byadarahalli, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and bounded as follows: East by: 60 feet Road, West by: Land bearing Survey No. 45, belongs to Nupav Bio tech & Bhupendra Bai Ambabahi Patel, North by: Land bearing Survey No. 49, belongs to Ramprakash Bhauulla, South by: Land bearing Survey No. 48/2, belongs to M.D.Krishna,

D. S. JAYARAJ & ASSOCIATES
No. 22, G-8, Ground & 2nd Floor, Krishna Tower, 3rd Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009. Date:11-05-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General Public that my clients **Sri. K. Yella Reddy,** S/o. K. Yella Reddy and Smt. Kaluvai Padmamma, W/o. K. Yella Reddy, residing at Ground Floor of property No.2, Survey No.113/3, Lakshminarayana Building, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066, have filed a suit in O.S.No.912/2025 on the file of the II Additional Civil Judge, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore, against their son-in-law Sri.K.T.Kumar, seeking for Declaration and Possession of property bearing **(1)** Municipal No.109, BBMP Katha No.593/115, property No.115, situated at A.K.Gopalan Colony, Channasandra, Bidarahalli Hobli, now comes under BBMP, Bengaluru, **(2)** property bearing No.2, Lakshminarayana Building, D.G. Layout, Shivanakuntamma Temple Road, Nagondahalli, Bangalore, **(3)** land bearing Sy.No.9/4, measuring 5 guntas, out of 13¼ guntas, as shown in 11-E sketch No.19080522786255001, Block-2, situated at Achhetanahalli, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk, **(4)** Land measuring 1 acre 4 guntas in Sy.No.50 at Turugalur village, Kasaba Hobli, Kolar District, **(5)** Land measuring 20 ¼ guntas in Sy.No.44/4 and 20 ¼ guntas in Sy.No.44/5, (Old Sy.No.44/1) at Turugalur village, Kasaba Hobli, Kolar District, both together measuring 1 acre 8 guntas, **(6)** land measuring 1 acre 6 guntas in Sy.No.22/3, situated at Muthugadahalli village, Shivarapatna Panchayat, Kolar District, **(7)** site in BBMP Katha No.1911, Municipal No.696, formed out of New Sy.No.113/5, Old Sy.No.113/3, situated at Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore East.

In the above said suit, emergent notice has been ordered and suppressing all these material facts, he is trying to alienate the said properties to defeat my clients' right over the same. In view of the fact that the said properties are not available for sale and in spite of this notice, if anyone purchases any portion of the same from him, he or she will be doing so at his/her risk and the same will not be binding on my clients and the same will be brought to the notice of the court for appropriate orders.

JANARDHANA .G Advocate
No.44/14, K.Kamaraja Road, Bengaluru-560 042. Mob: 9448360409
Email: janardhana_g@yahoo.com

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION BASAVA BHAVAN, HIGH GROUNDS BANGALORE-560001
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986
First Appeal No. 2034/2024
(Against the order dated 31/07/2023 in Complaint No.412/2021 of the 4th Addl. District Commission, Bangalore)
Cherian. A. Paul and others ...Appellants
Versus Mr. Tejdeep Singh and others Respondents
Respondent Name:
Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mr.Ashok Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mrs. Preethi Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
APPEAL NOTICE UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE AMENDED C.P.A.2019 TO THE RESPONDENT NO.3. 4 AND 5 FOR HEARING THE APPEAL IN ENGLISH NEWS PAPER INDIAN EXPRESS, BANGALORE EDITION:
Whereas, the Appellant has filed the above appeal against the orders passed by the 4th Addl. District Commission, Bangalore in complaint No.412/2021 dated: 31/07/2023. You are hereby notified to appear before this Commission in person or through a pleader or person authorized to answer all the material facts relating to the Appeal on **2nd June, 2025 at 11.00 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above Appeal will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on this 6th May 2025
By Order of the Commission,
Asst.Registrar-Cum-Asst. Admn Officer
KSCDRC. Bangalore

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION BASAVA BHAVAN, HIGH GROUNDS BANGALORE-560001
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986
First Appeal No. 970/2024
(Against the order dated 31/07/2023 in Complaint No.407/2021 of the 4th Addl. District Commission, Bangalore)
Cherian. A. Paul and others ...Appellants
Versus Mr. K. Bhaskar and others ...Respondents
Respondent Name:
Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mr.Ashok Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mrs. Preethi Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
APPEAL NOTICE UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE AMENDED C.P.A.2019 TO THE RESPONDENT NO.3.4 AND 5 FOR HEARING THE APPEAL IN ENGLISH NEWS PAPER INDIAN EXPRESS, BANGALORE EDITION:
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Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on this 6th May 2025
By Order of the Commission,
Asst.Registrar-Cum-Asst. Admn Officer
KSCDRC. Bangalore

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.8,90,041/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Ninety Thousand and Forty One only)** as on **06-05-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **07-05-2025** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Ramesh .S, S/o. Shankar .K, No.6, PVR Road, Ranasinghpet, Near Cottonpet Police Station, Bangalore - 560053. No.2) Mr. Suresh .S, S/o. Shankar .K, No.6, PVR Road, Ranasinghpet, Near Cottonpet Police Station, Bangalore - 560053. No.3) Mrs. Pushpavalli, W/o. Ramesh .S, No.6, PVR Road, Ranasinghpet, Near Cottonpet Police Station, Bangalore - 560053.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. Ramesh .S, S/o. Shankar .K)

All that Piece and Parcel of Western Potion of the Property Bearing Assessment No.16/8, Sl.No.1125, Situated at 3rd Cross, Doddagollarahatti, Hosahalli Gollarapalya Grama, Near Magadi Main Road, Yeshavanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Measuring : East to West - 22.5 Feet, North to South - 21 Feet. Along with 4 Feet Passage at Northern Side, Bangalore Now Comes Under BBMP Ward No.40 and Bounded on : East by : Property Belongs to Sri. Suresh, West by : Road, North by : 4 Feet Passage and South by : Private Property.

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Suresh .S, S/o. Shankar .K)

All that Piece and Parcel of Eastern Portion of the Property Bearing Assessment No.16/8, Sl.No.1124, Situated at 3rd Cross, Doddagollarahatti, Hosahalli Gollarapalya Grama, Near Magadi Main Road, Yeshavanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Measuring : East to West - 22.5 Feet, North to South - 21 Feet. Along with 4 Feet Passage at Northern Side, Bangalore Now Comes Under BBMP Ward No.40 and Bounded on : East by : Property Belongs to Sri. Eranna, West by : Remaining Portion Belonging to Mr. S. Ramesh, North by : 4 Feet Passage and South by : Private Property.

Reserve Price : Rs.38,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh only) (For Schedule A & B)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
18-06-2025	**City Union Bank Limited, Hoskote Branch,** 6th Cross, Thamme Gowda (TG) Layout, Opp.Hoskote Mission Hospital & Channakeshava Petrol Bunk, Hoskote, Bengaluru Rural-562114. Cell No.7397789907.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Hoskote Branch, 6th Cross, Thamme Gowda (TG) Layout, Opp. Hoskote Mission Hospital & Channakeshava Petrol Bunk, Hoskote, Bengaluru Rural-562114. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Cell No.7397789907. (5)** The property/ ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 08-05-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION BASAVA BHAVAN, HIGH GROUNDS BANGALORE-560001
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986
First Appeal No. 2036/2024
(Against the order dated 31/07/2023 in Complaint No.408/2021 of the 4th Addl. District Commission, Bangalore)
Cherian. A. Paul and others ...Appellants
Versus Mr. Hema Gopinath and others Respondents
Respondent Name:
Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mr.Ashok Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mrs. Preethi Chowriappa, the Director, Chowriappa Constructions Private Limited, registered Office at No.41, 6th Floor, Christu Complex, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560 001
APPEAL NOTICE UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE AMENDED C.P.A.2019 TO THE RESPONDENT NO.3. 4 AND 5 FOR HEARING THE APPEAL IN ENGLISH NEWS PAPER INDIAN EXPRESS, BANGALORE EDITION:
Whereas, the Appellant has filed the above appeal against the orders passed by the 4th Addl. District Commission, Bangalore in complaint No.408/2021 dated: 31/07/2023. You are hereby notified to appear before this Commission in person or through a pleader or person authorized to answer all the material facts relating to the Appeal on **2nd June, 2025 at 11.00 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above Appeal will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on this 6th May 2025
By Order of the Commission,
Asst.Registrar-Cum-Asst. Admn Officer
KSCDRC. Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the land bearing Survey No 48/3, measuring 1 acre 02 guntas situated at Byadarahalli, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, from it's Owner **Sri.M.B.Krishnaiah** S/o Basappa, Residing at Maththahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk. In this regard Our Client intends to get Sale Deed registered in his favour in respect of the Schedule Property with the aforesaid Owners.

Any person/s, individual/s, Bank/s, Financial Institution/s etc. has/having any manner of claim/right over the Schedule Property, should file objections, if any, in writing with necessary documents in support of their claim within **10 days** from issuance of this notice. Objections will not be entertained without documentary proof and objections if any exceeds **10 days** will not be considered/entertained.

SCHEDULE

The property land bearing Survey No 48/2, measuring 1 acre 02 guntas situated at Byadarahalli, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and bounded as follows: East by: Road, West by: Padma Koneria's land, North by: land of Vijayalakshmi A.S.Murthy, South by: Sy.No.48/1.

D. S. JAYARAJ & ASSOCIATES
No. 22, G-8, Ground & 2nd Floor, Krishna Tower, 3rd Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009. Date:11-05-2025

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001. Karnataka State. INDIA.
Ph: 25581383, 25589112, 25589113 Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No: PCB 267 INFRA EPH 2024/547 **DATE: 09/05/2025**

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board has proposed for development of Kanagala Industrial Area Phase-II in Kanagala & Karjage Villages, Sankeshwara Hobli, Hukkeri Taluk & Belagavi District in a total extent of 576.25 Acres (233.2 Ha). The Project requires obtaining Environmental Clearance as per EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006, and it is required to conduct Environmental Public Hearing process. Accordingly, the Project Proponent has obtained Terms of Reference (ToR) issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change IA Division (MOEF&CC) Government of India dated 03.12.2024 vide File No. 10/35/2024-IA.III, proposal No. IA/KA/INFRA1/496887/2024 dated: 20.09.2024 and TOR Identification No. TO24A3102KA5587728N. As per project proponent request letter No. KIADB/BGM/2426/2024-25, dated: 23.01.2025 & RO-Chikkodi letter No. PCB/RO(Belagavi-2)/EPH/2025-26/59, dated: 21.04.2025, the Environmental Public hearing is scheduled by the Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District on **13th June 2025 Friday at 11.00 AM**. The Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board as per details given below:

1.Name of the Company & Address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, Zonal Office, Belagavi, Plot No. 7/B-3 B K Kangrali Industrial Area, P B Road Belagavi-590010.

2. Proposed location of the project: "Kanagala Industrial Area Phase-II" in a total extent of 576.25 Acres (233.2 Ha) in Kanagala village & Karjage Village, Sankeshwara Hobli, Hukkeri Taluk & Belagavi District

3. Details of activity: Development of "Kanagala Industrial Area Phase-II" in a total extent of 576.25 Acres (233.2 Ha) in Kanagala village & Karjage Village, Sankeshwara Hobli, Hukkeri Taluk & Belagavi District.

4. Date, time and venue of Public hearing: Date: 13th June 2025, Friday Time: 11.00 AM. Place: open place of Shree Mahalakshmi Temple, Karjage Village, Sankeshwara Hobli, Hukkeri Taluk & Belagavi District.

5. Capital Investment: Rs. 151.6323 Cr. (Project cost)

6. Places of availability of project documents kept open for public: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Belagavi District. (c) Office of Tahasildar, Taluk Office, Hukkeri, Belagavi District. (d) District Industries Centre, Belagavi. (e) Grama Panchayath Office of Kanagala village, Hukkeri Taluk & Belagavi District. (f) Grama Panchayath Office of Karjage Village, Hukkeri Taluk & Belagavi District. (g) Office of the Senior Environmental Officer- Belagavi, 1st Floor, Plot No-1, Autonagar, Kanabargi Industrial Area, Belagavi-590015. (h) Office of the Regional Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Regional Ofifce-Belagavi-2, No. 6816/1/P5, 6th cross, Hari Nagar, Chikkodi-591201. (i) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. (j) State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (SEIAA), 4th Gate, 7th Floor, Forest Ecology and Environmental Department, MS Building, Bengaluru -560 001. **(k) HELP DESK**, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (**Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District**). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details, please visit our Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

₹2.26 L CR Asset base of hybrid MF category surged 12% in April 2025.

Overview of key changes in new ITR forms

Individual taxpayers should know about new additions that have been made in ITR forms for AY 2025-26

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE tax department has recently notified the Income Tax Return (ITR) forms for the Assessment Year 2025–26, which corresponds to the financial year 2024–25. While the forms largely retain their previous structure, some notable changes have been introduced, particularly concerning the reporting of long-term capital gains (LTCG) and the threshold for disclosing assets and liabilities. Individual taxpayers should familiarise themselves with these updates to ensure accurate and timely filing.

ITR-1 (Sahaj): For salaried individuals

The ITR-1, also known as 'Sahaj', is for resident individuals (other than not ordinarily resident) with a total income not exceeding ₹50 lakh from salary or pension, one house property (excluding cases with brought-forward losses), and other sources such as interest. The new ITR-1 now also applies to individuals who earned up to ₹1.25 lakh in the previous financial year from LTCG through the sale of listed equity shares or equity-oriented MFs. Neeraj Agarwala, Partner at Nangia Andersen LLP, points out a significant relief for taxpayers with LTCG under Section 112A below ₹1.25 lakh. Previously, they might have been required to file the more complex ITR-2. "This inconvenience is reduced with the new Form ITR-1 for AY 2025–26 incorporating a small section for reporting income in the nature of LTCG on which tax is not payable by virtue of the exemption limit provided in Section 112A." However, he clarifies that if LTCG under Section 112A exceeds ₹1.25

lakh, or if there are other types of capital gains, or carried forward/brought forward capital losses, individuals will still need to file ITR-2.

ITR-4 (Sugam): For presumptive income

ITR-4, or 'Sugam', is applicable to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), and firms (excluding LLPs) with total income up to ₹50 lakh. They must have income from business or profession computed under the presumptive taxation schemes. Similar to ITR-1, Sandeep Jhunjhunwala, Tax Partner at Nangia Andersen LLP, notes that the new ITR-4 also allows for reporting of LTCG under Section 112A up to ₹1.25 lakh.

ITR-2: Detailed reporting for wider income sources

ITR Form 2 is for individuals (both residents and non-residents) and HUFs with total income excluding income from business or profession, but including income from salary, multiple house properties, capital gains, and other sources.

Sanjoli Maheshwari, ED at Nangia Andersen India, highlights several key changes in ITR-2 for AY 2025–26:

- **Separate reporting of capital gains:** Taxpayers must now report capital gains separately for periods before and after 23 July 2024, aligning with amendments in the Finance Act, 2024.
- **Reporting of unlisted bonds and debentures:** Gains from these are to be reported as short-term or LTCG based on the holding period.
- **Buy-back proceeds as dividend income:** Buy-back proceeds received on or after 1 October 2024 are to be reported as dividend income under 'Income from Other Sources'.
- **Revised threshold for assets and liabilities disclosure:** Individuals with total income exceeding ₹1 crore (up from ₹50 lakh previously) are now required to furnish details of their assets and liabilities.

ITR-3: For business and profession income

It is applicable to individuals and HUFs earning income from business or profession. Taxpayers choosing the new tax regime must file Form 10-IE or 10-IEA and provide its filing details in ITR-3.

IN CONVERSATION

IRFAN RAZACK
Chairman and MD, Prestige Group

'There is vacuum in NCR realty market and we plan to fill it'

BENGALURU-BASED Prestige Group has marked its foray into Delhi-NCR's competitive residential real estate market with the launch of Prestige City Indirapuram. Within seven days, the developer sold 1,200 units, raking in over ₹3,000 crore, and aims to sell all 3,421 units in the coming weeks. But the group isn't stopping there. Spotting a vacuum in the NCR market, Prestige Group aims to establish itself as a key player by leveraging its strengths: offering affordable luxury homes and ensuring timely delivery. In an exclusive interview with TNIE's **Arshad Khan**, Prestige Group's Chairman and Managing Director, **Irfan Razack**, shared insights on the NCR launch, the company's expansion plans, detail on the much-anticipated IPO of its hospitality arm and more. Edited excerpts:

You are planning to be among the major realty players in the NCR market. How are you going to achieve this?

We are already among the top 3-4 players in the country in terms of sales and market capitalisation. We have a presence across all the major cities. The only thing (to succeed in the market) is consistency. You will have to consistently bring new products and deliver them on time. We are building a strong pipeline in Delhi and are exploring various opportunities both in Noida and Gurugram. We are also constructing a metal commercial project in Aerocity, Delhi. People are offering us land. However, we will have to evaluate whether it would make commercial sense or not before finalising a deal. Then there is the niche KG Marg project that is targeted to a different sort of audience. There is a regulatory hurdle related to the height of this property, and once it is cleared, we will start our work there.

Given that the NCR market has traditionally been investor-driven rather than end-user-centric—a dynamic that has often raised concerns—what makes you bullish about its potential?

There was a temptation to sell the property as early as possible. Many brokers approached us for those who wanted to buy in bulk. However, we denied them and chose to sell only to individual customers. What makes me bullish is that there is a vacuum. DLF is the biggest player and they are established in the Gurugram market. There is nobody in the Noida and Ghaziabad markets. Godrej has been here for a short time. There were so many big players in the Noida market. Unfortunately, they all got extinguished for some or the other reason. We believe that there is an opportunity here given the massive urbanisation happening in the capital market.

If the interest rate falls, it becomes more affordable because the EMIs will drop. The important thing is if your location is good, the product is decently priced, it will sell on time.

Why did you opt for an affordable luxury project instead of premium ₹5-6 crore homes like Gurugram developers? Do you foresee a near-term price correction in the market?

That is madness and it won't sustain. Even in Hyderabad, people are making the mistake of launching super expensive projects. I tell my developer friends to do some introspection that everybody is not like you. Since a lot of money chases land, it becomes expensive, so they can't lower property prices now. Construction costs are going up and there is a labour shortage. For me this is a big challenge.

When is Prestige Hospitality Ventures getting listed? Do you plan to list more companies in future?

We have already filed the DRHP with SEBI. When the approval comes, we will do it. Hopefully, by August, we should be able to launch the IPO.

Housing sales have been under pressure for the past few quarters. Do you expect a revival in sales given that the RBI is expected to go for more rate cuts this fiscal?

If the interest rate falls, it becomes more affordable because the EMIs will drop. Business keeps on happening. The important thing is if your location is good, the product is decently priced and sized, it will sell on time. We have done business in the best of times and in the worst of times. We don't hold any inventories.

MONEY-WISE

SHOULD YOU INVEST IN SMALL CAP FUNDS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

SMALL Cap Equity Funds have been in the eye of a storm ever since a prominent fund manager expressed his opinion on this category at the prevalent valuations. Several others were of a contrary opinion and the electronic media had a field day flogging this debate longer than needed.

So, what exactly are these Small Cap Equity Funds?

They are those funds that must mandatorily invest at least 65% of their assets in equity stocks of Small-Cap companies, as per SEBI's categorisation of funds. Small-Cap companies are defined to include all companies whose market cap is lower than that of the 250 largest companies (in terms of market capitalisation) listed in the Indian stock market.

A popular theory among many wealth managers is that it is better to avoid Small Cap Equity Funds, or at best, allocate a relatively smaller portion of the portfolio to them to steer clear of a bad hit in the event of a vertical fall in the market which in turn could adversely impact the overall performance of one's portfolio.

While there might be merit in the above belief, one must always remember that Investing is an Art and not a Science and hence cannot be bound by rules and formulae. Simply put, the above rule of avoiding or not investing in small-cap equity funds cannot be applied in the same measure to two individuals at opposite ends of the Investment Life-Cycle stage or to a person with a drive to maximize their investment returns coupled with a high-risk appetite.

At the early Investment Life-Cycle stage, for example, and with all other factors being equal, the risk appetite of an investor is likely to be higher than that of another individual closing in on retirement towards the end of their Investment Life Cycle.

Like with all other investment vehicles where the underlying asset class is Equity, one must give small-cap equity funds the luxury of time to perform.

While there may be times when it provides handsome short-term gains too, serious investors intent on wealth creation have more often than not, thrived by staying invested for longer time frames that include at least one economic cycle. This is even more so because, unlike the large and mid-cap companies, small-cap companies are lesser known and less researched, with relatively lesser-known management too.

As far as its taxation is concerned, based on the underlying asset, it qualifies for Equity taxation.

It is taxed at the rate of 12.5% for Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) made on the sale of units priced at over ₹1.25 lakh, and 20% for Short Term Capital Gains (STCG) if the units are sold within the time frame of 1 year from the date of allotment of units.

And thus, while Small-Cap equity funds may not merit an across-the-board blanket ban for investors, those including it in their portfolios must do so after calibrating its risks.

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL FUTURE: YOUR MONEY IN TIME OF WAR

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THERE is a ceasefire between India and Pakistan now. However, it is also a phase when emotions take over everything in our heads. There is a lot of anxiety and uncertainty. It is the environment you do not desire if you seek a secure financial future.

The timing of the skirmish triggered by the horrific killing of 26 innocent civilians in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, is unfortunate. India was emerging as an alternative manufacturing or service base for global multinationals. The relentless trade war between the US and China created new opportunities for nations like India. The sudden war appears to have put brakes on the momentum that India was building economically. Investors will not ignore that. Interest in the Indian stock market from foreign portfolio investors was back. We had a situation where foreigners and domestic investors bought Indian shares ahead of the recent conflict. The Rupee gathered strength from an all-time low of over ₹88 to less than ₹85.

The reaction to the war was initially muted. However, last Friday, there was a sharp sell-off in equities, bonds, and currency. Even then, Indian financial markets have shown significant resilience. The government bonds market usually sees the first reaction to a war. The 10-year bond yields tend to spike as the risk premium goes up. Much money (much bigger than equity markets) moves out of bond markets when investors are fearful.

However, financial markets showed incredible maturity. There is only a marginal increase in 10-year Indian bond yields, and bond markets are not bothered as India's economy is strong enough to sustain a conflict. The stock market has enough depth, and the downturn showed investors backing companies making defence equipment.

The diversity of investors in the Indian equity markets, including foreigners, domestic institutions and retail investors, gives it enough depth. The purpose of buying or selling securities in financial markets is different for all types of investors.

The risk they perceive is relative, too. For example, foreigners may think India is a good alternative manufacturing location for China. They foresee an increase in India's economic activity and are backing businesses supporting India's future growth. Domestic investors are receiving a sizeable chunk of retail money through systematic investment plans of mutual funds. While stock market valuations are at a record high despite the war, investors would move in if there is a sharp selloff.

Greed and fear

This column has always maintained that market prices are driven by greed and fear. The India VIX index has jumped significantly since 22 April, when the Pahalgam massacre happened. However, it is still below 7 April 2025, when share prices fell the most since COVID-19 days. It will cool off as the ceasefire is implemented and peace prevails. Your long-term investments need not find a new direction. There is a significant drop in the ratio of mutual fund SIP accounts closed to open. More of you are stopping systematic investment, the data shows. If the reason is fear, you are probably not doing justice to your future self.

Warren Buffett, the legendary American investor, stepped down as the CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, the firm he ran for six decades. His idea of being greedy when others are fearful and vice versa has put his firm among the most valuable companies in the world. While he continues to fear investing in equities and has left a war chest of over $350bn for his successor to find appropriate investments, that fortune was not built overnight. He rode through market cycles by staying invested and investing more when prices fell. If you are confident of your future income and future profits of Indian companies, you can prosper by staying invested.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

'No heavy discounts to save mkt share'

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

AS competition in the paints sector – especially in decorative paints space – gets intense, market leader Asian Paints is emphasising innovation, distribution expansion, and sustainability to stay ahead in the race. The strategy comes amid a challenging FY25 marked by demand slowdown and aggressive pricing from new entrants like Grasim Industries and JSW Paints. The company ruled out resorting to price war to protect its 54% market share in India's ₹70,000 crore paint industry.

Outlining the strategy in an analysts call, Amit Syngle Managing director and CEO of Asian Paints, said Asian Paints is doubling down on product durability and customer trust. The company recently extended warranties—from 4 years on interior paints to 25 years for rooftop waterproofing—without raising costs.

"Warranties are a de facto quality marker. Our formulations are chemistry marvels," Syngle said, highlighting R&D efforts to absorb warranty-related expenses through backward integration and raw material efficiencies. With 1.69 lakh retail touchpoints, Asia's largest paint manufacturer plans to deepen rural penetration while leveraging digital tools like salesforce for dealer management. "Our network is unmatched. We are investing in AI-driven colour visualization (Chromacosm) and 1,000+ colour consultancies to appeal to Gen Z," Syngle added. Despite inflationary pressures, Asian Paints reported an 18.6% standalone EBITDA margin in Q4 FY25, aided by deflation in raw materials like titanium dioxide. Syngle attributed this to backward integration projects, including a ₹3,000 crore emulsion plant and a ₹2,000 crore vinyl acetate monomer facility. "These projects will bolster margins, allowing us to reinvest in brand-building," he noted. Syngle acknowledged FY25 as one of the "worst years" for the industry, with organised decorative paints seeing negative growth.

However, he expressed cautious optimism for FY26, citing government infrastructure spending, rural demand revival (supported by monsoon forecasts), and premium housing growth.

"Mid-luxury housing and second homes are bright spots," he said. On competition, Syngle ruled out price wars: "We focus on sustainable value, not discounts."

Stock market to monitor Indo-Pak situation this week

PTI @ New Delhi

THE domestic stock market this week would monitor the geopolitical developments after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop military actions, analysts said. Moreover, macroeconomic data announcements, Q4 earnings, trading activity of foreign investors and global market trends are also likely to influence sentiments, traders said.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

"This de-escalation removes a key overhang on investor sentiment and is likely to be seen as a major positive development by financial markets. Historically, markets have shown resilience and a tendency to recover following such geopolitical de-escalations," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. All eyes would be on FIIs who turned negative on Friday trading session.

"This week will be pivotal, marked by several key domestic triggers. Geopolitical developments, particularly the ongoing tensions with Pakistan, will continue to remain in focus. On the macroeconomic front, investors will closely monitor the release of key data points including the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

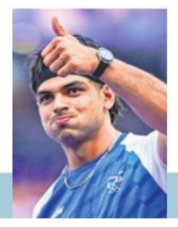
DCM Shriram's arm buys stake in DNV Global

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DCM Shriram group firm Fenesta has acquired 53% equity stake in DNV Global for ₹44 crore to expand its business. The deal is expected to be completed in next 2 months, according to the company's statement. The acquisition of DNV Global will help Fenesta in backward integration and opportunity to create new line of business (hardware).

"This strategic investment marks a significant step in Fenesta's vision to enhance customer experience, deepen vertical integration, enhance product reliability, achieve accelerated growth in scale and unlock operational synergies across its supply chain," DCM Shriram said.

Neeraj-led 4 Indians to compete in Doha Diamond League



Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will have the company of three other compatriots in the Doha leg of the prestigious Diamond League Meeting on May 16 as the country will have maximum representation ever in a DL event. The other Indians are Kishore Jena (javelin throw), Gulveer Singh (5000m) and Parul Chaudhary (3000m steeplechase).

IPL likely to resume this week

BCCI has informed franchises to assemble with the schedule to be finalised in a day or two

GOMESH S @Chennai

FOLLOWING the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan, the BCCI is closely monitoring the situation and will take a call on the resumption of the Indian Premier League after consulting with the government authorities. Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Indian cricket board had already informed the franchises to assemble at their respective centres as it is hoping to resume the league before the upcoming weekend.

The 2025 season of the IPL was suspended on Friday after the cross border tension between India and Pakistan escalated. On Thursday, the game between Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans was called off midway in Dharamsala as a precautionary measure. "The decision was taken by the IPL Governing Council after due consultation with all key stakeholders following the representations from most of the franchisees, who conveyed the concern and sentiments of their players, and also the views of the broadcaster, sponsors and fans; while the BCCI reposes full faith in the strength and preparedness of our armed forces, the Board considered it prudent to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia had said in a statement on Friday. In the days that followed, both India and Pakistan have agreed to a ceasefire which has now given the BCCI some breathing space to discuss and decide on the resumption of the 10-team tournament. With 12 league games, including the Punjab versus Delhi game that was called off, and four play-off games remaining, they are potentially looking to extend the schedule closer to May 30. Earlier, the final was scheduled to be played on May 25 in Kolkata. If the tournament extends beyond the original schedule, one has to wait and see whether all Australian and South African players will be able to come back and stay for the entirety of the tournament as they are scheduled to play the World Test Championship final in England from June 11. Meanwhile, the Punjab franchise head coach Ricky Ponting and their support staff seem to have stayed back in the country.

It also remains to be seen whether the tournament will be played in select venues, especially in the Southern part of the country (Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam), with multiple double-headers to finish the tournament on time. The picture is expected to get clearer in the next couple of days as the BCCI top brass meets and finalises the schedule.

Saikia, while responding to this daily, said that the board will begin consulting with franchises, broadcasters and state associations in the next few days. "The BCCI suspended the IPL on Friday for a period of seven days, and, today, we are on the third day with five more days left. The BCCI is closely monitoring the evolving situation and developments, and will take a call on IPL resumption after consulting all stakeholders of IPL and the concerned Government authorities," Saikia said. "In the next (few) days, we will begin consultations with the franchises, broadcasters, sponsors and the state associations slated to host the remaining matches before crystallizing to a decision on the league's resumption. Given the importance of IPL at this juncture, it will also be prudent and necessary to take the nod of the Government of India before finalising the time for its restart. BCCI will duly announce the date of ipl restart once the whole process is over in due course of time," he added.

There is a chance that IPL might happen in the southern part of the country

GUJARAT FIRST TEAM TO RESTART TRAINING

Gujarat Titans became the first team to resume training since the IPL got suspended as they got back to the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad for their regular practice on Sunday evening. "Yes, they have started training," a GCA official told this daily. Since the IPL got suspended for a week on Friday, teams have returned to their respective bases while many overseas players have left for their respective countries. GT, camped in Ahmedabad, returned to normal proceedings with the BCCI looking to resume the tournament this week.

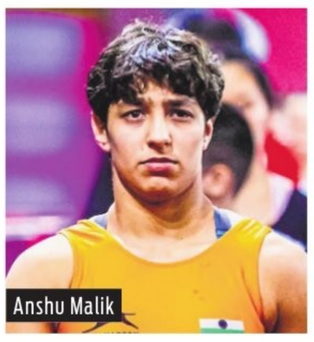
RANKING SERIES

Wrestler Anshu urged to appear in selection trials

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

TOKYO and Paris Olympian Anshu Malik has expressed her interest to compete in the Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series scheduled in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from May 29 to June 1. Anshu informed the TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) about her interest. Despite not meeting the eligibility criteria set for the aforementioned competition, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), in turn, has made an exception and urged the wrestler to earn her spot in the national team by taking part in the selection trials that's scheduled to be held at the IG Stadium on Tuesday, in New Delhi.

As the 23-year-old — who is part of TOPS core group — hadn't taken part in the last selection trials which was held to pick the team for the Asian Championships, she is not eligible to take part in the Delhi trials, which will determine the participants for the third Ranking Series of the year. "She informed the TOPS but the chief coach of the women's team has urged her to book her spot in the national team by winning the 57kg selection trials," a source in the know of things told this daily. Anshu, a 2021 World Championships and 2022 Commonwealth Games silver medallist, last represented India at the Paris Games in August 2024 where she lost to USA's Helen Louise Maroulis in the first round.



Anshu Malik

Moreover, the upcoming trials will be held only in weight categories wherein the wrestlers didn't win medals in the continental championships. While the women's trials are in Delhi, the men's trials, both in Greco-Roman and freestyle, will be held in Lucknow on Monday. Indian men wrestlers had won five medals (two in GR and three in freestyle) at the Asian meet then. Similarly, the women wrestlers had returned with a haul of five medals at the event.

Sunil Kumar (87kg) and Nitesh (97kg) had won a bronze each in GR while Udit (61kg silver), Deepak Punia (92kg silver) and Dinesh (125kg bronze) were the medallists in the freestyle. "Sunil is injured so now the trials will be held in nine weight categories in the GR. In the freestyle, trials will be organised in seven weight categories," added the source.

Manisha clinched 62kg gold while Reetika returned with 76kg silver in the Asian event held in Amman, Jordan from March 25 to 20. Antim Panghal (53kg), Muskan (59kg) and Mansi Lather (68kg) had bagged a bronze each. "Apart from Anshu, Radhika has been allowed to compete in the 68kg as before the trials for the Asian Championships, she had submitted her medical certificate requesting to skip the competition. As Mansi is injured, she has been given permission."

A total of 40 wrestlers (top 4 in each weight category) in every style have been camping at their respective centres after the Asian tournament. The WFI, along with Sports Authority of India (SAI), have chosen Lucknow for men wrestlers while the IG Stadium in New Delhi has been selected for the women's camp.

Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari clinched bronze medal after heartbreak in the semifinals of the Archery World Cup | WORLD ARCHERY

Recurve archers Parth, Deepika pocket bronze

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

FOUR-TIME Olympian recurve archer Deepika Kumari redeemed herself with a hard-earned bronze medal after a semifinal heartbreak while Parth Salunkhe finished on the podium for the first time as India wrapped up their campaign at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai with seven medals on Sunday.

Deepika and Parth added two more medals (bronze), a day after compound archers put up a dominating show with five medals. In the women's individual recurve semifinal, Deepika was undone by reigning Olympic Champion Lim Sihyeon losing 1-7. Deepika bounced back strongly to defeat another Korean, Kang Chae Young, 7-3 in the bronze medal playoff. She showed greater composure and tactical clarity than her defeat to Lim. Deepika led 3-1 after a solid 28 in the second set. Kang, a former world champion, fought back, scoring 30 to Deepika's 27. The Indian then responded with her best score under pressure - three 30s, in the fourth set to take a 5-3 lead. In the last set, she scored 29 to secure victory.

In the men's section, 21-year-old Salunke lost 1-7 to top seed Kim Woojin in the semifinals. Salunkhe bounced back to beat higher-seeded French archer Baptiste Addis 6-4 in a tense five-setter to earn his maiden World Cup medal. Salunkhe began with a flawless 30, including an X, to take the opening set.

He slipped in the second set, before managing just 25 in the third set. But the young Indian held his nerves in the decider, shooting two 10s, one of them an X, and a 9 to edge out Addis by a point.

Mandhana, Rana step up as India clinch series

ENS @Chennai

WHEN Sneh Rana made it back to the ODI set up, it was one of the many comebacks she had made in recent years. From the time she returned to the Indian team in 2021 after five years, it has been a rollercoaster ride for the veteran all-rounder.

Rana, since then, had made multiple comebacks while constantly being on the fringes, especially in both white-ball formats. And every time she got a chance, the off-spinner impressed with some impactful performances.

The latest one came in Sri Lanka where she was drafted into the ODI team for the first time since the home series against Australia in 2023. And as always is the case, Rana did not take long to make a mark. In the very first game against Sri Lanka, she took three wickets before following with a fifer versus South Africa in the next one. That fifer came at a time when South Africa were cruising as the Rana spun the fortunes India's way. Sunday was no different as the all-rounder once again raised the bar with a four-fer after Smriti Mandhana's century helped India post 342/7 in the final against hosts Sri Lanka. Her 4/38 and a 15-wicket tally meant India beat Sri Lanka by 97 runs to win the tri-series.

India women won the tri-series, beating hosts Sri Lanka in the final on Sunday | SLC

While the writing was on the wall from the moment India posted 342/7, with Sri Lanka, there was always a threat of their captain Chamari Athapaththu pulling off a heist. Enter, Sneh Rana. The off-spinner had already dismissed the left-hander in one of the league games and was introduced into the attack after 12 overs. Athapaththu took a couple of balls before charging at Rana and hitting her through covers. Once she was taken off after just one over, Athapaththu got going as she held the innings together for SL. As the left-hander got to her fifty, Harmanpreet Kaur brought back Rana and soon she delivered. The SL captain once again tried to charge at the offie but Rana pushed it fuller to deceive the batter and clean her up. Rana kissed the skies and let out a big smile. Having given the big breakthrough, Rana went on to remove Nilakshika Silva, Malki Madara and Anushka Sanjeewani. Her fourth wicket came as the final nail in the coffin as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 245. "I am very pleased to have contributed. After coming after so many months, I worked very hard, so I'm very grateful. The plan was simple - just stick to pace-off deliveries and yorkers. Worked with the bowling coach a lot, and it worked out," Rana said after a player of the tournament performance.

The senior all-rounder's comeback and performance comes at a time when India are gearing up for a home ODI World Cup. On surfaces that assist spin, especially in India, Rana could be a handful with India looking to play a spin-heavy line-up. With Deepti Sharma being the other established offie in the side, it will be interesting to see how the Indian team looks when they tour England in July. For now, it is a moment to cherish for Rana and India. Because they have earned it. **Brief scores:** India 342/7 in 50 ovs (Mandhana 116, Deol 47, Rodrigues 44, Kaur 41; Kumari 2/59) **bt** Sri Lanka 245 in 48.2 ovs (Athapaththu 51, Silva 48; Amanjot 3/54, Rana 4/38).

Jannik Sinner celebrates after winning against Mariano Navone | AFP

Winning return for Sinner after doping ban

AGENCIES @Rome

JANNIK Sinner hailed the passionate backing he has received from his colourful support in Rome after returning to tennis on Saturday with a confident win at the Italian Open.

World No 1 Sinner swept past Mariano Navone in front of over 10,000 fans at the Foro Italico, looking nothing like a player who has spent three months out of the game due to a doping ban he says he grudgingly accepted from the World Anti-Doping Agency. The Italian was roared on by fans dressed as carrots and decked out in orange in honour of his ginger hair, as he comfortably beat Navone 6-3, 6-4.

"It has been amazing to go again on court after such a long time, having a great support also in the last days. From the first day I came here, it has been amazing," Sinner told reporters. "That means much more than any result, to be honest. It has been an amazing feeling to come here, starting from the first practices with other players."

EXPRESS READ

Pragg plays out draw to remain in joint lead in Superbet Classic

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA): Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to remain in joint lead with the Frenchman after five rounds of the Superbet Classic. World champion D Gukesh also drew with Duda Jan-Krzysztof of Poland. Apart from Vachier-Lagrave and Praggnanandhaa, Fabiano Caruana remained as the third co-leader after a long-drawn battle against fellow American Wesley So.

Nirupama fourth in Asian Weightlifting C'ships

JIANGSHAN (CHINA): Two failed clean and jerk attempts cost Indian weightlifter Nirupama Devi a bronze as she finished fourth in the women's 64kg category at the Asian Championships on Sunday. The 24-year-old, an Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships medallist, managed 115kg in clean and jerk as she faltered in her attempts to heave 120kg and 125kg, adding to her 91kg snatch for a total of 206kg.

India's 4x400m relay teams miss out on Worlds berth

GUANGZHOU: India's campaign at the World Athletics Relays ended in disappointment as the men's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m teams missed out on qualifying for the World Championships, to be held in Tokyo later this year. The mixed 4x400m team of Santhosh Kumar Tamilarasan, Rupal Chaudhary, Thennarasu Kayalvizhi Vishal and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes 14.81 seconds to finish fourth in heat number 2.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Barca on brink of La Liga title after thrilling victory over Real

AGENCIES @Barcelona

BARCELONA mounted a spectacular comeback to beat Real Madrid 4-3 on Sunday and move to the brink of the La Liga title. Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick for Los Blancos but Raphinha's double and goals from Lamine Yamal, Eric Garcia and Fermin Lopez gave Barcelona a seven-point lead on reigning champions Madrid with three matches remaining.

Hansi Flick's side were knocked out of the Champions League in the semifinals by Inter Milan on Tuesday and risked their season collapsing if they were beaten by Madrid, but they resisted after Mbappe's early brace.

Barcelona battled back to claim a fourth Clasico victory from four meetings this season, showing their dominance over Carlo Ancelotti's side.

Real Madrid had made the perfect start to what is expected to be the Italian coach's final Clasico at the helm.

Mbappe earned a penalty when he was scythed down by Barcelona goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, although the Catalans complained in vein the French forward was offside in the build-up.

The striker beat Szczesny, who dived the right way and got his fingers to it, but could not keep it out.

In the 14th minute Mbappe doubled Madrid's advantage with a lethal finish after Vinicius Junior played him through, with Barcelona complaining again about a perceived foul on Yamal earlier in the move.

Barcelona players celebrate their win over Real Madrid on Sunday | AP

Just as they have done on so many occasions this season, Flick's spirited young Barcelona fought their way back in front with a stirring comeback.

Newcastle beat Chelsea

LONDON: Newcastle took a huge step towards qualifying for the Champions League with a vital 2-0 victory over top-five rivals Chelsea, while Nottingham Forest were held to a costly 2-2 draw by Leicester on Sunday. The Magpies' seventh win from their last nine league games and lift them into third place in the Premier League. League leaders Liverpool and Arsenal, meanwhile, played out a thrilling draw (2-2) at Anfield.

Results: Newcastle **2-0** Chelsea; Manchester United **0-2** West Ham; Nottm Forest **2-2** Leicester; Tottenham **0-2** Crystal Palace; Liverpool **2-2** Arsenal.

Team effort: Kynan and Sabeera bag WC bronze

ENS/AGENCIES @New Delhi

AS has been the case for many key events including the 2024 Paris Olympics in the last few years or so, Indian shooters continued to make the headlines after some noteworthy hits in the opening two World Cups — Argentina and Peru — of the season. However, medal earners were from rifle and pistol discipline. The shotgun shooters from the country, meanwhile, had endured a quiet spell with no medals to their credit. That dry spell had continued in the latest World Cup in Nicosia until the final day of the competition. Just when it seemed like the Indian shotgun shooters would end up with yet another duck, the pair of Kynan Chenai and Sabeera Haris gave some much-needed lift to the discipline by capturing a bronze medal in the trap mixed team event on Sunday.

Kynan and Sabeera defeated the Turkish pair of Tolga Tuncer and Pelin Kaya 34-33 in the bronze-medal match, at the Cyprus Olympic Shooting range. China won gold while Poland bagged silver. The Indian pair finished a commendable fourth among 34 teams in qualification, with a tally of 142 after 75-shots fired by each team member. Sabeera tallied 72 (23, 25, 24) while Kynan shot 70 (23, 25, 22).

IIT ROORKEE

WITH A STRONG LEGACY, FORWARD-LOOKING VISION, AND RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE, THE IIT AIMS TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO INDIA'S GROWTH, FINDS **SAUMYA SOLANKI**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Harshil Mathur
- BTech Mechanical Engineering (2013)
- CEO and Co-founder, Razorpay

Dr Amit K Gupta
- BE Electrical Engineering (2000)
- Head, Rolls-Royce Electrical, Rolls-Royce Singapore

Rajeev Gautam
- MSc Biotech (1986)
- PhD Biotech (1990)
- President, HORIBA India

Prof Ayodhya Nath Tiwari
- MSc Physics (1980)
- Chairman and Co-founder, SOLTIWA AG, Switzerland

Lt Gen Vishwambhar Singh
- BArch (1979)
- Served the Indian Army for 38 years

'IIT Roorkee has embraced the responsibility to serve the region'

● IIT Roorkee conducted GATE 2025 and declared the results. Any trends in the results that you would like to highlight?
IIT Roorkee has successfully conducted GATE 2025 in coordination with other IITs and IISc. A few key trends stand out:
- There is an overall increase in the number of GATE aspirants.
- There is a surging interest in interdisciplinary domains, especially in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, and other emerging fields, highlighting a shift towards future-ready careers.
- We are encouraged by the increased participation of women, indicating the positive impact of efforts to enhance gender diversity in STEM.

● IIT Roorkee discovered a potential cure for Chikungunya and is always up to something innovative and inventive. Tell us the parameters the IIT follows to foster an active atmosphere for research and innovation.
We invest heavily in cutting-edge infrastructure and dedicated Centres of Excellence, spanning fields like Artificial Intelligence, Bioengineering, Sustainable Technologies, and Quantum Computing.

Through platforms like TIDES Business Incubator, we empower student and faculty start-ups, offering support in mentorship, IP filing, funding access, and industry connections. We maintain a network of global collaborations with leading institutions such as Kyoto University, and various DRDO and ISRO labs.

Kamal Kishore Pant
Director, IIT Roorkee, talks about how they are helping to strengthen Uttarakhand

● Located in the scenic Uttarakhand, tell us what the IIT does for the state and vice-versa.
IIT Roorkee has long embraced a responsibility to serve the region through cutting-edge research, sustainable development, and rural empowerment.

The institute plays a pivotal role in disaster mitigation, using AI-powered early warning systems for landslides, floods, and earthquakes, developed in collaboration with the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA).

Through initiatives like Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) and RuTAGe Smart Village Centre (RSVC), IIT Roorkee supports Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), especially in honey production. These Honey Centres enable local processing, branding, and market access, reducing migration and boosting self-reliance in remote villages. Also, Uttarakhand's diverse terrain acts as a living laboratory for IIT Roorkee's research in environmental sciences, geology, and hydrology.

● IIT Roorkee has revised the PG Curriculum in 2024...
Yes, the PG curriculum revision of 2024 was a landmark initiative aimed at making postgraduate education at IIT Roorkee more interdisciplinary, industry-aligned, and research-focused. The theme of the new PG curriculum is "RISE," which stands for Research (R), Interdisciplinary (I), Societal Connect (S), and Enrichment of practical knowledge (E).

● Where do you see India in 2050, and what role do you see IIT Roorkee playing towards the same vision?
By 2050, India aspires to be a global powerhouse in innovation, sustainability, and digital leadership. At IIT Roorkee, we are committed to being at the helm of this transformation. We envision:

Global leadership in green energy: IIT Roorkee will continue driving advancements in solar, hydrogen, and carbon capture.

A thriving start-up culture: Fuelled by deep-tech research and a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem nurtured on campus.

AI-led governance and infrastructure: Our contributions in AI, cybersecurity, and automation will power next-gen governance.

A knowledge-driven economy: IIT Roorkee will produce the innovators, scientists, and visionaries of tomorrow.

Placement trends & challenges

PLACEMENT STATISTICS THAT ASTOUND

1,000+
Total offers extended

Sector-wise and year-wise trends (Past 3-5 years)
- Gradual slowdown in IT hiring due to global recession concerns and tech sector layoffs.
- Strong rebound in Core Engineering placements, especially in Electrical, Mechanical, and Electronics.
- Last year saw record-breaking placement performance in core sectors.

CURRENT YEAR (2024-2025):
- IT sector shows mild improvement over last year.
- Consulting and Core Engineering affected by broader economic slowdown.
- Overall placement numbers reflect the impact of global economic uncertainty, yet remain competitive.

STUDENTS' VOICES

Aaryan Jain, *Second year, BTech Mechanical Engineering*
What makes IIT Roorkee so special is the bonding that is developed over the course of four or five years. The relationships that we share, whether they're between our colleagues, friends or even with the professors, is something that is solidified by the IIT culture and this is really what ignites a rare spark in all of us.

Siya Parikh, *First year, BArch*
The IIT has a vibrant culture of clubs, fests, sports, and entrepreneurship. Also, students participate in various activities like coding, robotics, design, filmmaking and podcasting, making the IIT really special.

Meet Jain, *Second year, BTech BSBE*

Another reason why IIT Roorkee is special is its strong alumni network and incredibly helpful seniors. Whether it's internships, placements, or guidance for higher studies, seniors and alumni are always approachable and ready to support, making the journey smoother and inspiring.

Kartikey Pal, *Second year, BTech ECE*
IIT Roorkee surrounds one with some of the most brilliant minds across the nation, providing great exposure for students who wish to pursue a career in the fields they are interested in.

Key research collaborations and projects

- **Stormwater Management Plan for Bhubaneswar –** AI-driven urban flood mitigation and smart water conservation in collaboration with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation.
- **IN-CBI Joint Research Lab with Kyoto University (Japan) –** Focused on healthy aging, bioengineering advancements, and interdisciplinary research collaborations.
- **Biodegradable plastics and sustainable packaging research –** Developing enzyme-based solutions for plastic waste degradation, contributing to circular economy and environmental sustainability.
- **Water resource management and climate resilience –** Multi-institutional collaborations focusing on AI-based predictive analytics for water conservation, flood forecasting, and drought management.

DIRECTOR ON AI AS A DISRUPTOR

Personalised learning
AI-driven adaptive learning platforms that cater to individual student needs

Automation of administrative tasks
AI-enabled student evaluation, academic advising, and resource management

Research acceleration
AI-powered tools are revolutionising data analysis, simulations, and predictive modelling

PEEK INTO THE FUTURE
What can one expect from IIT Roorkee next?

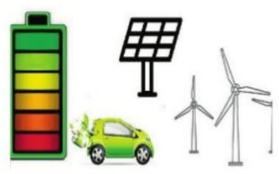
Quantum & AI frontiers: Launching advanced research labs focused on quantum computing, AI, and machine learning.

Sustainably built environment: Developing future-ready materials, smart energy systems, & resilient infrastructure.

Revolutionising healthcare: Advancing biotech, nanomedicine, and AI-based diagnostic tools for better public health outcomes.

Strengthening global collaborations: Partnering with top institutions and industry leaders to amplify research impact and global outreach.

Research & innovation hub



IIT Roorkee & EnrgEnv will develop solid electrolytes for Li-ion batteries

START-UP ECOSYSTEM & INCUBATION SUPPORT

IIT Roorkee possesses a strong and thriving innovation and incubation ecosystem that places significant emphasis on fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among its faculty and students. By providing the necessary resources, pre-incubation support, mentorship, and infrastructure, IIT Roorkee empowers its community to transform innovative ideas into successful ventures, contributing to the growth of the start-up ecosystem in India. There is a dedicated Student cell along with two incubators and an industry accelerator on campus. In the IIT's ecosystem, there are 200+ start-ups of which 52 start-ups which are led by the faculty of the institute.

IIT ROORKEE IS ALSO HOME TO TWO INCUBATORS

Technology Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Society (TIEDS): Established to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

iHUB Divyasampark (TIH): iHUB Divyasampark enables innovative ecosystems in cyber-physical systems (CPS).

AARTI: INDUSTRY ACCELERATOR

The **Automotive and Allied Research and Technology Innovations (AARTI)** is an industry accelerator in collaboration with the **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** and the **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT).** AARTI aims to foster technological innovations in the automotive and allied research domains, providing a platform for start-ups, innovators, and industries to collaborate and drive transformative solutions.

GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS & RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

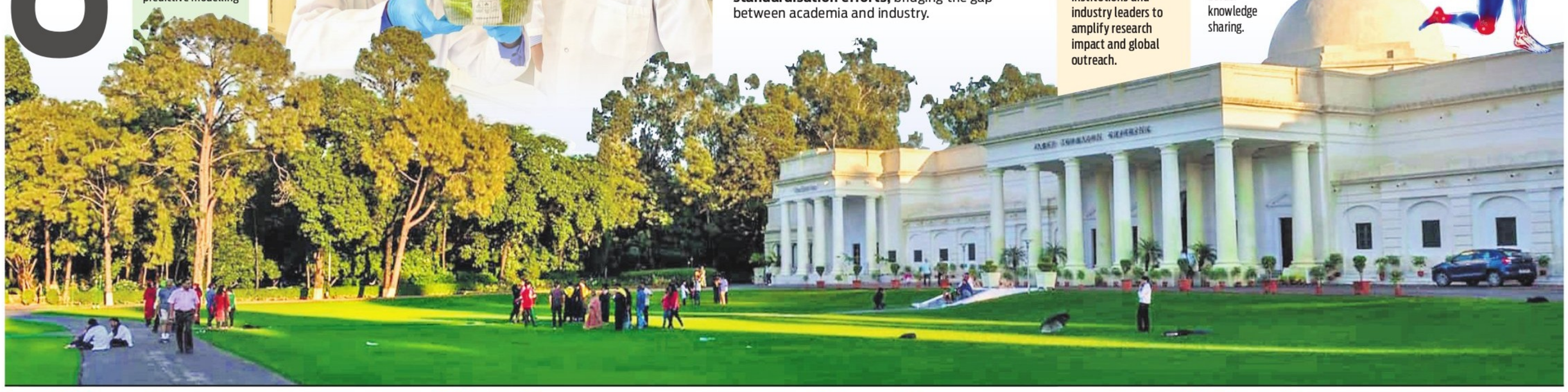
IIT Roorkee has established a strong **global footprint,** collaborating with over **150 leading universities across 40 countries.** With **200+ MoUs and academic agreements,** it fosters **student exchanges, joint research, and dual-degree programmes,** driving cross-border knowledge sharing.

Dielectric Elastomer-Based Variable Focal Length Reflector

Efavirenz was identified for treatment of **Chikungunya**

First IIT to establish BIS Clubs

IIT Roorkee is the **first IIT to establish BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) Standards Clubs across 14 departments,** reinforcing its leadership in **policy engagement, industry standards, and quality benchmarks.** This initiative ensures **students and researchers contribute to national and global standardisation efforts,** bridging the gap between academia and industry.



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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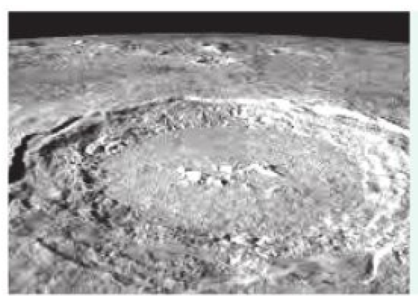
12.05.2025
MONDAY

Yummy popsicles to cool things down

PG 8



DAY'S DIARY

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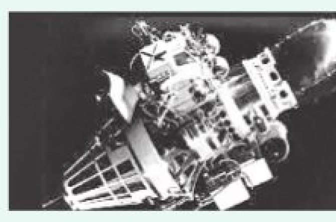
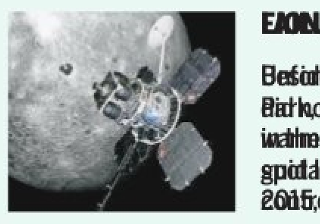




I Am on the Hit List, a book chronicling the life, work, and assassination of prominent journalist Gauri Lankesh, has just been crowned a Pulitzer finalist, coming second in the General Nonfiction category. Author Rollo Romig and Gauri's sister Kavitha Lankesh reflect on the achievement, and what it means for press freedom in India

FEARLESS FINALIST

ANJALI RAM

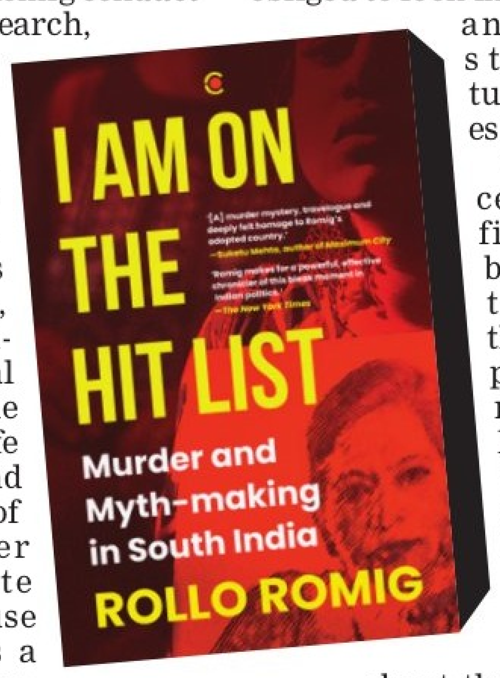
THE assassination of prominent journalist Gauri Lankesh left the media world and common citizens alike in shock, consequently sparking widespread outrage and concern about journalists' safety in India. Rollo Romig, an American journalist, was one of the concerned, and decided to investigate further. What came of it was *I'm on the Hit List (Context; ₹499)*, whose status as Pulitzer finalist has reawakened the focus on the issue. "I was incredibly shocked at the murder, and I wrote an article about the case. But I felt that this was a story with a lot more to say about it," he recounts, further revealing, "It was unclear for some time who had murdered her and why, and it took a long time to uncover that. As I dug deeper into the case, I found that she really was an extraordinary and unusual person."

Over the course of the five cumulative years of bringing the book to life, Romig conducted extensive research, travelling to Bengaluru and Karnataka, interviewing diverse people who pored over thousands of pieces of information, along with articles and official documents on the case. "Gauri's life was complex and moved in a lot of directions. Her parents wrote memoirs because her father was a very famous Kannada journalist, P Lankesh. So I hired a translator," Romig reveals.

Through his investigation, Romig unveiled the complexities of Lankesh's life and work, showcasing her remarkable talent for connecting with people and creating communities. According to him, this ability to build relationships and mobilise people was a hallmark of Lankesh's journalism, and was what made her such a powerful force for change. "She touched many people. I felt really obliged to look into everything and leave no stone unturned," stresses Romig.

It was unclear for some time who had murdered her and why, and it took a long time to uncover that. As I dug deeper into the case, I found that she really was an extraordinary and unusual person. She touched many people

Rollo Romig, author



With the recent Pulitzer finalist status being a signature point in the book's impact and significance, Romig hopes that the recognition will help the book spark meaningful conversations about the importance of investigative journalism. "I hope it'll help the book to reach a wider audience," he shares, further emphasising, "Investigative journalism is more important than ever. Just our contemporary reality is so incredibly complex and getting more complex by the minute. We need investigative journalists to uncover what's under the surface".

'I feel Gauri's voice still resonating somewhere'

I hope we recognise journalism as what my father [P Lankesh] and Gauri stood for: being critical watchdogs. That is a very unsafe field right now – being truthful is quite scary these days

Kavitha Lankesh, filmmaker

ANUBHAB ROY

THE assassination of Gauri Lankesh at the doorstep of her residence in Bengaluru, a scathing indictment of the perils of critical or analytical journalism in this country, is fresh in public memory even to this day, as we're almost eight years away from the abominable incident. As Rollo Romig's investigative book on the murder – I *Am on the Hit List* – has just become a finalist in Pulitzer Prizes 2025, Kavitha Lankesh, Gauri's sister, believes the achievement to be the latest echo to Gauri's persistent presence. Despite coming second to Benjamin Nathans' *To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause* in the General Nonfiction category, as Kavitha says, "Being shortlisted for a Pulitzer is already amazing; I feel Gauri's voice still resonating somewhere."

Romig's book on Gauri could hardly have found a platform more fitting than The Pulitzer Prizes; even beyond acting as a reminder, it is a timely feat in context of India's rapid descent in press freedom indices for about a decade. Kavitha, who hopes it will shed some international acknowledgement of this abysmal state, remarks, "I hope we recognise journalism as what my father [P Lankesh, founder of *Lankesh Patrike*] and Gauri stood for: being critical watchdogs. That is a very unsafe field right now – being truthful is quite scary these days."

Kavitha maintains absolute praise for the extent and depth of Romig's research behind the book. "He was here for almost a year and a half, combining the two trips he took here in 2018 and 2019; he's done a meticulous job, meeting everybody of relevance: from family and friends to investigators and office staff. He has fleshed her out not just as a journalist, but as a person, including her interests and passions," she says. The success of the book, providing an in-depth portraiture of Gauri's ethics, raises important – albeit timid – hopes about the implementation of necessary infrastructure to safeguard journalists. "I hope it happens. In this day and age, a story will invite a multitude of trolls and abuse behind anonymity. This is especially true for a woman journalist," Kavitha says.

Kavitha, a director and screenwriter by vocation, believes her work is affected by Gauri's life, not death. "After her death, I made a documentary titled *Gauri* – going back to her life and purpose caused me a lot of emotional turmoil, but also exhilaration. When she was around, I would discuss all my scripts with her. She taught me to be aware and sensitive, and to speak for the unspoken," she asserts.

BEHIND THE MURDER

Firebrand journalist and staunch activist Gauri Lankesh, known for investigative work and criticism of right wing radicalism in India, was murdered right outside her house in Rajarajeshwari Nagar. The helmet-clad assailants used pistols to shoot her, thrice in total, to fatal effect. Lankesh had been a target of Hindutva groups, owing to her unrelenting criticism of them. The two accused of the murder – Parashuram Waghmore and Manohar Yadawe – were released on bail in 2024, only to be received by a rousing welcome by Hindutva outfits, underscoring the vehemence of fascist vengeance in whose context Lankesh's assassination and India's press freedom reside.

CITY READ

Organisation to host second edition of blind men's cricket series to raise awareness

Hyundai Motor India Foundation (HMIF) recently announced the second edition of Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket, an international bilateral blind men's cricket series under its corporate initiative Samarth by Hyundai, which will be held from May 12 to 17 at Sai Krishnan Cricket Stadium, Muddenahalli, featuring the India Men's Blind Cricket Team facing the South Africa Men's Blind Cricket Team. The event will be organised in partnership with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled and Cricket Association for the Blind in India to raise awareness and enable people with disabilities in India.

New French-American patisserie in Marathahalli

Anthara, a distinctive French-American patisserie by Balasundaram Murugesan, recently opened in Marathahalli to bring together a cafe, dining space, and lounge under one roof. The cafe features a daily rotation of artisanal breads, baked in-house, which form the base of sandwiches inspired by American deli classics. A beer and coffee pairing menu enhances the comfort-food offering, while the bakery showcases fine French patisserie – from delicate eclairs to macarons, all crafted using authentic techniques. Speaking at the launch, Murugesan shared, "I wanted to create a space that feels personal yet refined – where food isn't just consumed, but truly experienced."

THIS WEEK IN *CITY EXPRESS*

Raihan Vadra, an emerging young artist and Gandhi family scion, speaks candidly about being inspired by themes of perception, control and comparison, his love for storytelling, and more

Raghu Dixit

SOUND OF SILENCE

Over the weekend, B'luru saw popular musicians Rishab Rikhiram Sharma and Raghu Dixit's concerts cancelled. Additionally, museums stalled their progammes, and some cultural events saw a dip in attendance

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

AS cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan rose to a crescendo over the weekend, musicians like Raghu Dixit and Rishab Rikhiram Sharma cancelled their shows set to happen in the city on Sunday. In his statement on Instagram, Dixit said, "We feel it is important to pause, reflect, and stand in solidarity with our brave armed forces and their families, who continue to sacrifice so much to keep us safe." Sharma, too, echoed similar sentiments, saying, "These are moments that call for unity, reflection, and solidarity. Art can wait – humanity cannot."

Apart from these large-scale concert cancellations, The Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), which hosts workshops, screenings, intimate concerts and other cultural events, also announced that it would halt its programmes while keeping exhibits open to visitors. While waiting to see where the cards fall in the coming weeks, many other venues are avoiding large-scale events. Preema John, the director of The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME), explains, "This is a conversation that we're all having amongst ourselves – what can we do to support our armed forces and government administrators while also serving our communities? We're not planning any large-scale events, while going ahead with smaller programmes like our summer workshops for kids. It's also easier for institutions like us to cut back on programmes as spaces housing exhibits. It's much harder for those that run [solely] on programming."

Concurrently, some venues noted cancellations from artistes and a dip in attendance. Vikram Bhat, the director of Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, says, "One foreign speaker cancelled and there have been slightly lower-than-normal turnouts. Some artistes from other parts of the country are concerned about flying – so we are leaving it completely up to them [whether to cancel or not]."

Rishab Rikhiram Sharma

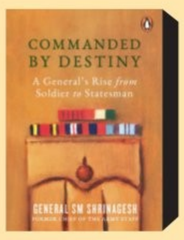
Despite some setbacks, venues are trying to keep spirits up through art. As John states, "What we are facing is most definitely unprecedented but I also feel it's important to continue some amount of normalcy...there's a certain amount of joy, togetherness and community that arts institutions bring, which I think should continue." Bhat concurs, saying, "People are anxious about what's going to happen. In many ways, the arts have a reassuring role to play."

In the same vein of nurturing community, Bangalore Creative Circus has adopted events that focus on calmness and healing. "Celebratory events certainly feel wrong. We are focusing on events around well-being, since it is much needed in these times of conflict: events that bring people calm," says Manisha Vinod, the co-founder.

This is a conversation we're all having amongst ourselves – what can we do to support our armed forces and government administrators while also serving our communities?

Preema John, director, The Indian Music Experience Museum

BOOK NOOK

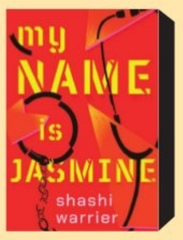


Commanded by Destiny
By General SM Shrinagesh

Drawn from the author's personal notes, this memoir captures key moments in India's history – from leading tank operations at Zoji La during the 1947-48 war to modernising the post-independence Indian Army.

The Great Big Beautiful Life
By Emily Henry

The Great Big Beautiful Life is the author's most ambitious novel yet: a sweeping, emotionally layered romantic comedy set on a sun-drenched island, packed with literary rivals, long-buried secrets, and a slow-burn that simmers off the page.



My Name is Jasmine
By Shashi Warrier

A dark political tale set in contemporary India. Unpredictable and hard-hitting. The protagonist wakes up in a hospital ward, unaware of how she got there. Through police interrogation, she regains her memory. In the process, we discover more about her troubled past.

Caste: A Global Story
By Suraj Milind Yengde

One of the world's leading Dalit scholars, Suraj Yengde draws on history, ethnography, and archival research to examine how caste discrimination shapes societies worldwide, from the Caribbean to Canada and the Middle East.

SPARKLE IN HER EYE

Actor Ashika Ranganath browses through earrings at the opening of Emmadi Silver Jewellery, Malleswaram | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

COCONUT COFFEE

INGREDIENTS

- **Coconut mylk:** ¼ cup
- **Coffee:** 2 tsp
- **Sugar:** 3 tsp
- **Milk:** ½ cup

METHOD

- Add sugar and coffee in a cup. Put a few drops of water and mix until it becomes creamy and turns light brown.
- Add some of the coconut mylk and mix well. Keep adding the coconut mylk and mixing it.
- Heat your regular milk and pour into your cup. Mix well.
- Serve hot!

Contributed by **Udita Pandit,** West Bengal

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Dim Sum Delight

Savour a curated selection of dim sum and pan-fried dumplings (pot stickers), specially created by executive chef Sajid Patel and his culinary team. Enjoy refreshing pours of cold soju and sparkling sake, paired to evoke the spirit of summer and add a sparkling edge to your evening!

WHEN: May 12, 12.30pm and 6.30pm
WHERE: Horizon at Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, Rajajinagar **CALL:** 96869 43311

Meditative Moments

Step into a sacred space of release and remembrance with an inner awakening ritual that combines the power of the full moon with the wisdom of the Buddha. Through meditation, journaling, a symbolic ego funeral, and silent self-inquiry, this event promises to make you remember your true self.

WHEN: May 12, 6.30pm
WHERE: Sabha, Kamaraj Road
DETAILS: allevents.in

Find Your Book

Wander through shelves of books and choose your favourites from new and pre-loved, best selling, and hidden gems including genres of rom-com, thrillers, classics, and more. Pick a box that satisfies you and stuff it with as many books as you can! **WHEN:** May 12, 11am
WHERE: Garuda Mall, Magrath Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Candle Crafts

Embark on a sensory journey with the art of candle making by joining this two-hour beginner-friendly workshop. Create exquisite aromatherapy candles to infuse your space with soothing scents and relaxation. All materials will be provided at the workshop.

WHEN: May 12, 5pm
WHERE: Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield **CALL:** 7676976701

ASIAN INDULGENCE

Spend a warm and breezy summer evening watching Asia unfold on your plate with a culinary immersion from Chef Ho Chi Ming's kitchen. Highlights include jasmine rice, hand-pulled noodles, Thai red curry, dumplings, baos, tempuras, spring rolls, and more.

WHEN: May 12, 7pm
WHERE: Lush at Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel, Gandhi Nagar
CALL: 98861 95617

Game Day

Gather your friends, family, or colleagues for a thrilling outing filled with laughter, friendly competition, and state-of-the-art entertainment. Aim for strikes on the bowling lanes, strategise in a laser-tag arena, dive into new realities with cutting-edge VR experiences, and more!

WHEN: May 12, 11am
WHERE: The Grid, Koramangala
DETAILS: district.in

Musical Mondays

Beat your Monday blues with DJs Night and Blaster as they play your favourite Bollywood tunes so you can show off your best moves. Enjoy mouth-watering appetisers, cocktails, and mocktails for a night of rhythm, celebration, and joy. **WHEN:** May 12, 7.30pm
WHERE: Toca, Koramangala **DETAILS:** highape.com

DR VIVEK ARORA
drvivekarora@hotmail.com
The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My Persian cat (9), who is a bit overweight, has developed an odd, circular scab near her right shoulder blade. It is about the size of a small pea and is a deep red colour. Could this be a sign of something serious, and how should I treat it?

A circular, deep red scab on your nine-year-old Persian cat could indicate several issues, such as an infection, allergy, or skin irritation. It might also be from excessive grooming, a flea bite, or even a benign growth. However, it's important to consider more serious causes like a skin infection or tumour. Given her age and the size of the scab, it's recommended to consult a vet for a proper evaluation. In the meantime, try to prevent her from licking or scratching the area to avoid further irritation or infection.

ASK AN XPERT

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

VIRABHADRASANA III NAMASKAR MUDRA (WARRIOR POSE III PRAYER HANDS)

This is an intermediate level standing and balancing pose. It strengthens the grounded leg muscles, including the quadriceps, hamstrings, and glutes, while also improving balance and stability. The prayer hand position reduces the challenge on the shoulders and arms, allowing beginners or those with limited shoulder mobility to practise easily.

STEPS

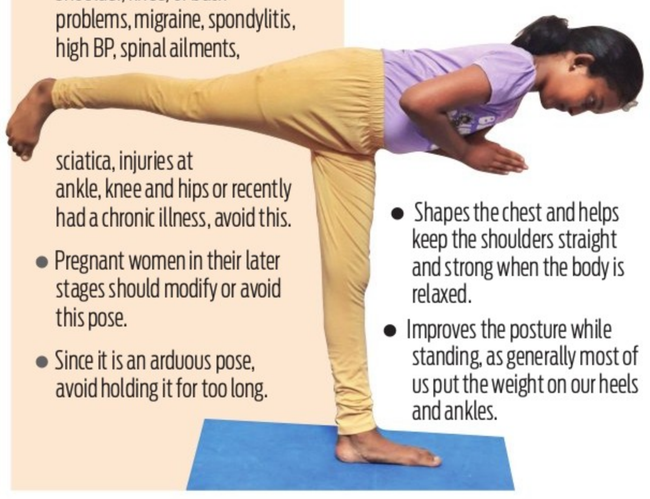
- Start in Tadasana (Mountain Pose), feet together, arms relaxed by your sides, looking forward. Take a deep inhale.
- Shift your weight onto your left foot. Engage your quadriceps and activate the arch of your foot while lifting your toes slightly to ensure balance.
- Exhale, bend your torso forward from the hips as you lift your right leg straight back, in line with your hips.
- Bring your hands in Prayer Position at the center of your chest. Inhale, lengthen your spine from the crown of your head to your lifted heel. Keep your chest broad and your shoulders away from your ears.
- Exhale, square your hips. Flex your left hip and extend your right hip slightly backward to create alignment.
- Keep your standing leg strong to avoid locking the knee. Root down firmly through the grounded left foot, maintaining balance and stability.
- Inhale deeply to elongate your spine further. Exhale softly to hold the pose, engaging your core muscles to support your torso and prevent collapsing into your lower back. Focus on your breath and the connection of your body to the floor.
- Hold for six to eight breaths or as per your capacity.
- Slowly release the pose and return to Tadasana. Repeat on the other side.
- Finally, release and relax in Three Part Mountain Pose for six to eight breaths.

BENEFITS

- Stretches the back leg and activates the hip flexors.
- Promotes flexibility and strength in the lower body.
- Helps cultivate mindfulness and concentration.
- Improves proprioception, which enhances body awareness and spatial orientation.
- Encourages a sense of calm and focus.
- Reduced arm extension makes it accessible for individuals working on their balance or recovering from shoulder injuries.
- Promotes a sense of grounding through the standing leg while fostering lightness and length through the extended spine and back leg.
- Relieves stiffness in the neck, shoulders and back.
- Reduces stubborn fat from hips.
- Useful for people suffering from sciatica.
- Enhances blood circulation.
- Tones and strengthens knees, thighs, and ankles.
- Stimulates abdominal organs and aids digestion.
- Builds stamina; develops a sense of balance and coordination.
- Helps strengthen the leg muscles and add shape.
- Strengthens the arms, hips, and shoulders.

LIMITATIONS

- If you suffer from heart problems, severe neck, shoulder, knee, or back problems, migraine, spondylitis, sciatica, injuries at ankle, knee and hips or recently had a chronic illness, avoid this.
- Pregnant women in their later stages should modify or avoid this pose.
- Since it is an arduous pose, avoid holding it for too long.



- Shapes the chest and helps keep the shoulders straight and strong when the body is relaxed.
- Improves the posture while standing, as generally most of us put the weight on our heels and ankles.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

THE LAST HOPE

Artist Tanaya Sharma's painting captures the rare Pink Headed Duck, a symbol of lost beauty and hope, highlighting its vibrant colours and the mystery surrounding its potential survival

As people suffer from the heat due to the scorching summer, *CE* presents a wide choice of yummy popsicles to cool things down

Tropical granola lollies

Ingredients

- Large mangoes: 2 (peeled and roughly chopped)
- Bananas: 2 (peeled and roughly chopped)
- Coconut mylk: 8 tbsp
- Granola: 100g
- Dark chocolate: 100g

Method

- Purée the mango, banana and coconut mylk in a blender until rich and smooth. Pour the mixture into lolly moulds and freeze overnight.
- The next day, slightly whizz the granola in a food processor to remove any large lumps, then add the mix to a bowl.
- Melt the chocolate.
- Remove the lollies from their moulds. Dip the tops, one at a time, in the chocolate, then into the granola. Wait for it to set. Eat immediately or freeze if required.

Chai latte popsicles

Ingredients

- Brewed and cooled chai (strong): 1 cup
- Milk (dairy or non-dairy): 1/2 cup
- Sweetened condensed milk or honey: 2 tbsp
- A pinch of cardamom or cinnamon

Method

Mix all ingredients well. Pour into moulds and freeze overnight for a spiced, creamy treat.

Kesar rose lassi popsicles

Ingredients

- Thick curd (or plain yoghurt): 3/4 cup
- Rose syrup (like Rooh Afza): 2 tbsp
- A few strands of saffron (kesar), soaked in 1 tbsp warm milk
- Honey or sugar (to taste): 1-2 tbsp
- Crushed pistachios (optional for garnish): 1-2 tbsp

Method

Whisk curd with rose syrup, soaked saffron, and sweetener until smooth. Pour into moulds and sprinkle crushed pistachios on top, if using. Freeze for 6-8 hours.

Mango yoghurt popsicles

Ingredients

- Ripe mangoes (peeled and chopped): 2
- Greek yoghurt (plain or vanilla): 1 cup
- Honey (optional, adjust to taste): 1 tbsp

Method

Blend the mangoes until smooth, then mix in the Greek yoghurt and honey until fully combined. Pour the mixture into popsicle moulds, insert sticks, and freeze for at least six hours or overnight.

Watermelon mint popsicles

Ingredients

- Seedless watermelon (cubed): 3 cups
- A handful of fresh mint leaves
- Juice of 1/2 lime

Method

Blend watermelon cubes with mint leaves and lime juice until smooth. Strain if you prefer a smoother texture. Pour the juice into moulds, insert sticks, and freeze for 4-6 hours.

Coconut pineapple popsicles

Ingredients

- Coconut mylk (full-fat for creaminess): 1 cup
- Chopped pineapple (fresh or canned): 1 cup
- Honey or maple syrup: 2 tbsp
- Lime juice (optional): 1 tsp

Method

Blend all ingredients until smooth. Pour into popsicle moulds and insert sticks. Freeze for at least six hours or overnight.

Banana chocolate swirl popsicles

Ingredients

- Ripe bananas: 2
- Milk (any kind): 1/2 cup
- Cocoa powder or chocolate syrup: 1-2 tbsp
- Honey (optional): 1 tbsp

Method

Blend banana, milk, and honey until smooth. Add cocoa or chocolate syrup and gently swirl (don't mix fully). Pour into moulds and freeze.

Tender coconut & sabja falooda popsicles

Ingredients

- Tender coconut water: 1 cup
- Tender coconut flesh: 1/2 cup
- Soaked sabja seeds (basil seeds): 1 tsp
- Condensed milk or coconut mylk (optional for creaminess): 1–2 tbsp
- A few drops of rose water or cardamom (optional)

Method

Mix coconut water, flesh, sabja seeds, and sweetener/ essence of your choice. Stir well, pour into moulds, and freeze for 6-8 hours. It's like falooda in a popsicle without the heaviness.

Masala guava popsicles

Ingredients

- Ripe pink guavas (or 1 cup guava juice): 2
- Lemon juice: 1 tbsp
- Chaat masala: 1/2 tsp
- Jaggery syrup or sugar: 1-2 tbsp
- Pinch of black salt and red chilli powder (optional)

Method

Blend guava pulp with lemon juice, sweetener, and spices. Pour into molds and freeze for 5-6 hours. These popsicles are a nod to the tangy, spicy guava slices sold by Indian street vendors – cool, chatpata, and unforgettable.

Compiled by Viswajith M Menon and Neha Ann Roy

NUGGET

Makeup brand launches new eye product

KIKO Milano recently unveiled their Long Lasting Eyeshadow Stick with a creamy, argan oil-infused formula that glides effortlessly over the eyelids, promising vibrant colour with 24-hour hold. The product is priced at ₹990 and is available in shades of burgundy, holo white, slate grey, golden taupe, and many more. For more info, visit tirabeauty.com.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mrs. G. PADMAMMA, W/o Sri A Gnanamurthy, age 55 years, R/at No. 503, 12th Cross, Near Ramalingeshwara Temple, Pilliganahalli, Bangalore-560 083 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **G PADMAMMA, G PADMA** and **B PADMA** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 9th May 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G.R. RAJANNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Suman M Shenoy, aged about 76 years W/o Sri G Manjunath Shenoy, residing at No.74, Suman, 2nd Cross, Amarjyothinagar, Bangalore-560040. It is hereby declared that in some of my documents my name is mentioned as **"SUMAN M SHENOY", "SHENOY KAMALA SITARAM" & "KAMALA SITARAM SHENOY",** all the names belong to me only, for future records I would like to continue my name as **SUMAN M SHENOY**. Vide Affidavit dated **10.03.2025**, sworn before **M.K. Devaki,** Advocate & Notary Public, Bangalore-560086.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt.Sushmita Bage W/o **Sri.Soumyaaranjan Dash**, aged about 48 years, residing at No.28A, 2nd Main, Sarah D'souza Layout, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085. Hereby state that I have changed my name from **"Sushmita Bage"** to **"Sushmita Bage Dash"**. Vide Affidavit dated **10.05.2025**, Sworn before **H.S. Dharma Prasad,** B.A.LL.B., Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru-560011.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SARASWATHI TAYALUR** (Existing name of spouse as per change of next of kind record/service documents), spouse of No.24448, Rank JUNIOR WARRANT OFFICER Name TAYALUR GOVINDAIAH THYAGARAJULU (Adress) No.2, Sreenikethan, 1st Main, Chamundeshwari Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097 have changed my name from **T SARASWATHY** (Exulting name of spouse as per change of next of kind Record/Service documents) to **SARASWATHI TAYALUR** (proposed/adopted New name) vide affidavit dated 08/05/2025 (date of affidavit in DD/MM/YYYY format) before T.V.Bhadravijaya Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEEPA R D**, aged about 36 years, C/o. Ravi A D, residing at No. 237/1 and 237/2, Flat No. CF-03, Begur SR Flora Apartment, Near Mico Layout, Begur Village, Begur, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560068, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEEPA HORAKERI** to **DEEPA R D,** vide affidavit dated 09.05.2025, sworn to before B.M. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) HAMSALEKHA NAVEEN W/o NAVEEN N Residing at No. 418/04, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027. Have changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) HAMSALEKHA NAVEEN** to **(NEW NAME) HAMSALEKHA MUKUNDA RAJU SHAMALA** vide Affidavit Dated 11.05.2025 Sworn Before Notary M.K. Bopaiah

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JAGANNATHAN VIJAY KUMAR IYER S/o Mr. Ramanathan Jagannathan Iyer, aged about 47 years, DOB: 12-12-1978 and of Flat No.1134, DSR Woodwinds, Doddakannalli, Sarjapura Road, KARNtaram Post Bangalore-560035, have changed my name to **VIJAY KUMAR JAGANNATHAN** Vide Affidavit Dated: 10.05.2025 before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sri.Soumyaranjan Dash S/o Sri.Raghunath Dash, aged about 49 years, residing at No.28A, 2nd Main, Sarah D'souza Layout, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085. Hereby state that I have changed my name from **"Soumyaranjan Dash"** to **"Soumyaaranjan Dash"**. Vide Affidavit dated **10.05.2025**, Sworn before **H.S. Dharma Prasad,** B.A.LL.B., Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru-560011.

CHANGE OF NAME
I K.V John (Kanapilly Varghese John) F/o **Bento KJ** resident of #212, Cheemasandra , Virgonagar Post, Bangalore 560049. I have changed my name from **KV JOHN** to **JOHN KANAPILLY VARGHESE** vide Affidavit dated 24.04.2025. Sworn before notary Thippeswamy .T. Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SOWMYA CHIDANANDAIAH (Old Name)**, W/o, Mohanan Rajendran, Residing at, Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Nilaya, No. 77, 2nd Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Amruthahalli, Bangalore - 560 024, hereby declare that I have relinquished my earlier name **SOWMYA CHIDANANDAIAH** and henceforth will be called as **SOWMYA CHIDANAND (New Name)**, vide affidavit dated 09-05-2025 sworn before Notary : **SIVAKUMAR M.N.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Teerna Mukherjee,** D/o Mr. Dilip Mukherjee, Aged about 29 Years, residing at # No185/186 building, Maruthi Layout, Begur, Bangalore - 560068, have changed my name from **Teerna Mukherjee** to **DEVYANI ISIHITA MUKHERJEE,** vide affidavit dated 7/5/2025 sworn to before Mohammed Hussain.K Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Anushka Sanjeev**, daughter of Kavitha Sanjeev and Sanjeev, adopted via Adoption Reg. No. BKIV170/0809 dated 06/03/2009 at Bangalore, declare that my biological father Jidesh Kuttikkattil Ashokan passed away on 17/12/2001. I will henceforth be known as **Anushka Sanjeev** for all legal and official purposes.Vide Affidavit date14.05.2025 Sworn Before Notary, Vellanki Rekha Madhavi, Hyderabad.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr. AMIT KUMAR, Aged about 24 years, S/o. Ram Prakash Gond, R/at. No.273, Mercy Convent Street, Byrathi, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560077 have changed my name from AMIT GOND R to AMIT KUMAR vide affidavit dated 09/05/2025, sworn before Notary Public D. Rajanna, Bengaluru

For **SMART ADS**
& THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

UPENDRA NOTICING MY WORK FELT LIKE TRUE RECOGNITION : ANKITA AMAR

The *Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali* actor, who has two more films ready for release, will join the Real Star in Naganna's directorial *Bhargava*, produced by Surappa Babu

A SHARADHAA

ACTOR Upendra's upcoming film *Bhargava*, directed by Naganna and produced by Surappa Babu, is currently in the making, and the makers are finalising the rest of the cast. The latest update from team *Bhargava* is that actor Ankita Amar, a talent who transitioned from television to cinema and rose to fame with her performance in *Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali*, has joined the cast of the film.

Feeling overwhelmed and deeply grateful for the opportunity, Ankita shares that it was Upendra who noticed her performance in *Ibbani...* and felt she would be a perfect fit for the film. "While my father's matinee idols were Dr Rajkumar and Vishnuvardhan, I am someone who grew up watching films of Upendra sir," says Ankita, adding. "To now be working with him feels surreal — like my work is truly being recognised." Ankita also compares the craft of Upendra to legends like Puttanna Kanagal, Kashinath, and Shankar Nag, and says that he left a lasting impact.

For Ankita, the moment became more personal when Upendra reached out directly. "I was more than happy when he called and asked if I was up for the role. I immediately said, 'Of course!' What stood out was how genuinely he appreciated my work in *Ibbani...*" says Ankita, adding, "He told me that he had watched *Ibbani...* and felt I was the best fit for this role in *Bhargava*. That took a moment to sink in. It wasn't just a star talking — I saw the director in him, someone with a strong creative vision. Hearing him speak about performance and depth meant a lot."

While Ankita remains tight-lipped about the role itself, she hints that it's unlike anything she's done before. "This isn't a typical role. Since I'm still in the initial phase of my film career, I'm carefully trying to understand the audiences. *Ibbani...* was an emotional drama, *Just Married* is an entertainer, and *Sathya – Son of Harishchandra* is a serious subject. *Bhargava* is completely different from all of these," she reveals. "Upendra sir even mentioned a particular scene in the film that demands a strong performance — I'm really looking forward to that."

Ankita is also excited about the opportunity to work alongside an experienced team. "Producer Surappa Babu mentioned it will be one of the best roles in the film, and working under director Naganna, who brings so much clarity, is going to be special," she says. "I may be just one film old, with two more in the pipeline, but with *Bhargava*, I'm getting to work with people who bring years of wisdom and craft."

Reflecting on her breakthrough, Ankita credits *Ibbani...* for opening the right doors. "Ibbani is very close to my heart. Working with Paramvah Studios gave me the platform I needed. It ran for 70 days — that's huge for a newcomer. Without it, maybe Upendra sir wouldn't have called," says Ankita, adding, "I just want to learn as much as I can from Upendra, and others, and grow with each project."

Music for the film will be composed by Arjun Janya, and cinematography will be handled by Rajaratnam, with actors Rangayana Raghu, and Avinash also part of the project.

Ankita Amar

Upendra

I may be just one film old, with two more in the pipeline, but with Bhargava, I'm getting to work with people who bring years of wisdom and craft
- Ankita Amar, actor

Diganth's *'EAK'* finally gets a release date

The crime thriller, directed by Samarth Kadkol, explores the lives and struggles of left-handed individuals

CE FEATURES

AFTER four years of wait and unexpected delays, the crime thriller *Edagaiye Apaghatakke Kaarana*, starring Diganth, is finally gearing up for its theatrical release on June 13. The film, helmed by debutant director Samarth Kadkol, has endured a challenging journey since it began production.

"Independent filmmaking, especially for first-timers like me, is a long and uncertain road," shares Samarth. "Initially, I planned to make a splash with Antagoni Shetty, with Rishab Shetty in the lead. I was also one of the writers on his directorial Rudraprayag, which is still on hold. But then EAK took shape, and I've learned so much through its making. Post-Covid, things got even more challenging, but the passion kept it alive," says Samarth.

The film's production saw multiple changes in producers over time. It has now found solid backing in Ravichandran AJ, producer of Blink, and Rajesh Keelambi, producer of Shakahari. "After watching the film, they believed in its potential and gave it the push it needed. Their support has breathed new life into the project," says Samarth.

EdagaiyeApaghatakke Kaarana is described as a crime thriller with a unique concept—exploring the lives and struggles of left-handed individuals in a right-handed world. Diganth, typically known for his charming romantic roles, takes a sharp turn in this film, portraying a character far removed from his previous work. He is joined by Nidhi Subbaiah and Dhanu Harsha, while actor Nirup Bhandari makes a special appearance.

The film's music is composed by Praddyottan, with cinematography by Abhimanyu Sadanadan.

A still from the film

Sanvika wears nine hats in *Java Coffee*

Sanvika and Ajay Vardhan

CE FEATURES

JAVA Coffee, a suspense mystery thriller, is getting ready to hit the screens soon. But what truly makes this film stand apart isn't just its genre, but the maker behind it. Sanvika not only directs and produces the film, but also shoulders nine pivotal roles. Apart from making her directorial debut with the film, Sanvika also stars as the lead actor, opposite Ajay Vardhan. Sanvika has also taken charge of story writing, screenplay, stunt direction, costume design, casting, production coordination, creative direction, and even oversaw post-production supervision. "*Java Coffee* is a reflection of my dream and my mind," said Sanvika in a media interaction. "Although I am from Kerala, I chose to debut in Kannada. I have worked in nine areas of the film—including direction, production, acting, story, screenplay, and stunt direction."

The film, shot across Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and parts of Kerala, is nearing its final release phase, and the makers are planning to release the film in multiple languages.

Lauding Sanvika's efforts, her *Java Coffee* co-star Ajay said, "This is my third film, but I've never seen someone command a project with such clarity and courage. Sanvika has done the work of an entire crew."

Adding to the project's youthful energy is 18-year-old music composer Dhruva Devarayan, choreographer Palash Master, and three original tracks composed by Sridhar Karkera. The ensemble cast includes Manjunath, Pratima, Bhavani Shankar, Vijay Kumar, Ramachandra, and Ramalingappa.

CE FEATURES

VRITTA, the debut film of Likith Kumar, is set to hit theatres on June 6. Currently in post-production, the newcomer is confident that the film will captivate audiences with its interesting storyline and unique approach to storytelling. Ahead of the release, the makers have dropped the first single from the film, titled *Adu Yaava Maayeyo*, which will be the only track in the film.

Composed by Antony MG and Hari Krishanth, and sung by Nihal Tauro, the song's lyrics are penned by Shankar Raman. "*Adu Yaava Maayeyo* is a haunting and emotional track that immerses listeners into the world of *Vritta*. It is a film that blurs the line between reality and illusion. Likith describes the song as "an emotional free fall" that reflects the film's sense of longing. With a mix of modern euphoria and lingering intensity, the track leaves a lasting impression, setting the perfect tone for the mysteries of *Vritta*," he says.

Likith, who has always been passionate about cinema, shares that he wanted to make a unique mark with an original and challenging story. "I chose a minimalistic approach with only a few characters, focusing entirely on the character Siddharth's journey and his emotional connection with the audience," he explains. "The story revolves around a single night, a wrong turn, and a life-altering decision. This one moment of choice throws the protagonist into a state of delusion—changing everything."

Vritta stars Maahir Mohiuddin and Harini Sundararajan in the leads. "The screenplay of *Vritta* delves into the world of illusion, constantly challenging the audience's perception of what's real," says Likith, adding, "*Vritta* pushes viewers to question their instincts and beliefs as the story unfolds."

The film is presented by Sathish Picture House and A Lakshay Arts Production, and backed by T Shivakumar. Likith shares that actor Ninasam Sathish, who watched an early version of the film, was so impressed by it that he decided to take on the responsibility of presenting the film.

I wanted to make a unique mark with an original and challenging story: Likith Kumar

The debutant director of *Vritta* talks about the release of the film's first single, the story, and what makes it unique

A still from the film

Kirsten Dunst and Mikey Madison to star in *Reptilia*

CE FEATURES

Mikey Madison is set to star alongside Kirsten Dunst in *Reptilia*, a surreal thriller set in the murky world of Florida's exotic animal trade. The film will be directed by Alejandro Landes Echavarría, known for his acclaimed hostage drama Monos. *Reptilia* follows a dental hygienist (Madison) who becomes ensnared in a shadowy underworld after being seduced by a mysterious mermaid. The script is co-written by Landes Echavarría and Duke Merriman.

The project marks another atmospheric and genre-blurring effort for Landes Echavarría, whose Monos won awards at Sundance and the BFI London Film Festival and was Colombia's official entry to the Oscars in 2020.

Dunst has previously earned an Oscar nomination for The Power of the Dog and won Cannes' Best Actress prize for Melancholia. She is also known for Marie Antoinette, The Virgin Suicides, and Sam Raimi's Spider-Man trilogy. Her upcoming films include Derek Cianfrance's Roofman and Ruben Östlund's The Entertainment System Is Down.